

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



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Parents angry as schools are shut



Daniel Rust – targeted victim

PARENTS condemned as 'mad' the teachers' strike that saw at least 39 Dudley schools closed and more than 20 others only partly open.

Union members organised picket lines and rallies on Tuesday to express their anger at pay, pensions and working conditions.

But as nearly 40 gathered to protest under Stourbridge town clock, some passing parents expressed their anger at being left to make alternative childcare arrangements for the day.

Butcher Stuart Walton, of Amblecote, whose 13-year-old triplets Joseph, Daniel and Victoria go to Stourbridge's Redhill School, said: "It's a disgrace."

"My wife's a pharmacist and couldn't just take time off so I have had to take the day off. I've no sympathy with the teachers."

A local mother, who did not wish to be named, said: "My sister's a teacher and I'm behind her – but I think it's unfair on us parents that they've gone on strike."

Martin Lynch, secretary of the Dudley branch of the NUT, said he believed that more than 1,300 of his members in the borough had joined the strike.

One, Oz Bennett, aged 38, who teaches design and technology and ICT at Summerhill School, Kingswinford, said: "However hard we work, it's never enough – they are putting the squeeze on us."

Students get careers help

STUDENTS can receive advice from leading business figures in the region at Stourbridge Careers Day takes place at Glasshouse Arts Centre, Wollaston Road, on October 10 from 4pm.

Stourbridge MP Margot James is hosting the event to give students an opportunity to meet and network. There will be a series of workshops, including how to write a good CV.

Thug jailed for beating up man in street

A THUG has been jailed for five-and-a-half years for a brutal street attack on a Stourbridge man delivering catalogues to homes.

The 57-year-old victim was knocked unconscious and suffered serious injuries when he was punched and kicked during the dawn attack.

Attacker Daniel Rust was told he was a 'real and increasing danger to the public' when he was jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court. He was also sentenced for an earlier assault on three people in Telford after a night out. The attack in Stourbridge took place at 6.30am on February 16.

The victim – an accountant – was delivering Betterware catalogues and walking along Lion Passage near the town centre when 22-year-old

Rust walked over and demanded money from him. Ms Sally Cairns, prosecuting, told the court on Thursday: "The man was targeted by the defendant who beat him up." The man was punched repeatedly until he lost consciousness and then kicked while he lay on the ground.

He suffered several injuries, including bruising to his eye and jaw, a chipped tooth and a damaged eye socket. At the time Rust was out of prison on licence, having been given a three-year sentence in 2011 for burglary and theft. He was also on bail for an incident in Telford from December 2012 where three people were injured in a group assault. They were trying to get a taxi home following a birthday celebration when Rust became

confrontational. He was later arrested after one of the victim's identified him on Facebook.

The court was told Rust, of no fixed address and who pleaded guilty to assault with intent to rob, assault occasioning actual bodily harm and two counts of common assault, was 'horrified' by his actions. Mr Paul Smith, defending, said: "He does understand the distress he has caused. In both offences he was severely under the influence of alcohol."

Recorder Barry Berlin showed Rust a photograph of the injured man's face as he sentenced him to five and a half years. He told him: "You are not just a nuisance – you are a real and increasing danger to the public."

Security increased at club hit by arson

EXTRA security is to be installed at Lye Cricket Club after its £230,000 pavilion was gutted in an arson attack.

The club has announced restoration would begin on October 7 following talks with insurers.

And measures, including the installation of CCTV, are also to be put in place to safeguard the building against future attacks.

Members of the Stourbridge Road club were left devastated after the pavilion's interior was destroyed. It had been rebuilt in 2010 following earlier attack.

The club said the work was expected to take around five weeks to complete.

It will be re-opened soon after with officials still discussing if there should be a special celebration.

But they said security measures to protect the restored building would be a priority.

Alarms are also set to be upgraded following the blaze in August.

Club secretary Jake Hanson said they were pleased work would be starting so soon – with the aim of getting the pavilion reopened this year.

"The inside of the building will be totally stripped and new plasterwork and flooring being put in place," he said.

Three charged after attack

THREE men have been charged over an alleged attack near The Arena Nightclub, Stourbridge in June.

Benjamin Payne, aged 19, of Chapel Street, Brierley Hill, and water board worker Mark Flavell, 44, of Manor Road, Wordsley, face grievous bodily harm charge. Technician Ryan Claridge, 20, of Barnett Lane, Kingswinford, was also charged with assault and possessing an offensive weapon. They will appear before Dudley Magistrates' on October 18.

RAIL STATIONS WILL GET £8.5m BOOST

MORE than £10 million to be ploughed into improvements at rail stations across the West Midlands over the next two years, including work at Stourbridge Junction and Rowley Regis stations.

by Catherine Dalton

Train firm London Midland and transport authority Centro have struck a new deal. It will see more CCTV cameras put in at stations, park and ride services improved, better ticket machines and a pilot smart-ticketing service introduced.

A total of £8.5m will be spent on improving park and ride at six stations including Rowley Regis and Stourbridge Junction.

Work on expanding the service at Rowley Regis will begin later this year as part of a £3m investment.

A further £1m will be invested by London Midland on station improvements across the region, including extended CCTV coverage.

The deal is an extension to a partnership agreement which was signed in September 2011.

Patrick Verwer, managing

director of London Midland, said: "We are committed to improving services for our passengers and this agreement between London Midland and Centro demonstrates a shared aspiration to improve public transport across the West Midlands region."

Councillor Roger Horton, Centro lead member for rail, said: "Rail travel is increasing – since 2001 it has almost doubled."

"This agreement underpins an already very successful working relationship between Centro and London Midland."

Councillor John McNicholas, chairman of Centro, said: "We are delighted to be signing a new agreement that will see us work together to continue to create a more user friendly, accessible railway."

1D cut-out heads for new hospital role



Store manager Louise Storey and senior visual assistant Laurie Smith with ambulance Simon Shipley and John Walters

YOUNGSTERS receiving hospital treatment will be helped in their recovery – by pop heart-throbs One Direction.

Life-size cardboard cut-outs of the superstar band have been placed in the children's ward and outpatient departments at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital to bring a smile to youngsters' faces.

It is the idea of volunteer Steve Ford,

who works tirelessly to make the wishes of children treated at the hospital come true through the Wishing Well charity. He spotted the cut-outs at the Debenhams department store at the Merry Hill Shopping Centre where they had been placed for a promotion. And the 54-year-old asked staff if he could have them for the hospital when the promotion ended and they agreed.

But transporting the cut-outs to the

hospital posed a dilemma due to their size. An Ambulance ambulance was booked to transport the two cut-outs and they were placed on the two wards on Friday. Mr Ford said he had wanted it to be a surprise for both staff and children on the ward. "I saw the cut-outs and as One Direction is the band of the moment and one of them, Liam, is from Wolverhampton thought they would be a great addition."

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HS2 'will affect other train services'

HIGH-SPEED rail will lead to slower journeys and fewer trains for passengers from Sandwell and Dudley rail station, a report has warned.

The £50 billion HS2 would have a serious impact on services connecting the station in Oldbury, used by people in Dudley, with London, the research shows.

HS2 will take away existing fast trains which provide direct connections to London Euston because

long distance services will be transferred to the HS2 line.

The Taxpayer's Alliance (TPA) is calling for the project to be scrapped because of the spiralling costs and the detrimental effect it believes there will be on West Midlands travel.

It said Centro, the West Midlands passenger transport authority, is arguing for numerous additional services to maximise the benefits of

HS2. The TPA said: "These services would require significant subsidy." It claimed that journey time from Wolverhampton and Sandwell and Dudley stations would be longer as a result of more stops.

Chief executive of the TPA Matthew Sinclair said: "The Government's own plans show how many towns and cities would be left with a worse service."

A Department of Transport spokesman said the report was "blatant scaremongering". And a survey by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Group said 71 per cent of its members believe high speed rail will have a positive impact in the West Midlands.

Official documents show HS2 will provide 26 more services a day between Wolverhampton and London Euston, but slower than the existing Virgin Pendolinos.

Relaunch of loyalty card for charity shop chain

A CHARITY shop chain is relaunching its loyalty card after a successful pilot scheme.

Beacon Centre for the Blind's pilot project was hailed a big success earlier this year.

It has now been relaunched in its seven shops across the region. The scheme was inspired by the success of those like Tesco Clubcard.

Tracey Ford, retail operations manager if the Sedgley-based charity said: "For every £5 our customers spend in one of our shops, they will get a stamp on their loyalty card.

"Each card has 10 stamps and for each completed card, customers will receive a £5 voucher to spend in the Beacon charity shop of their choice.

"It's a simple scheme which is open until February 2014, and customers can collect and complete as many loyalty cards as they want. The revenue that comes from our shops is essential in supporting that, and we are grateful to our customers, those who donate goods and the volunteers who work in the shops, without whom we wouldn't be able to keep trading."

Beacon Centre supports people in the region with sight loss and has shops in Wolverhampton, Bilston, Bloxwich, Wednesbury, Cannock and Halesowen and the Sedgley centre.

Shoppers go for duchess

MERRY Hill shoppers have voted new Royal mum, the Duchess of Cambridge, the person whose home they would most like to take a peek around.

Known for her immaculately turned out look, 19 per cent envy her home sense, believing it to be a reflection of her relaxed style with everything in its rightful place, according to a survey by homeware-for-less retailer HomeSense, which is base in the Westfield shopping centre.

Partner judge

A PARTNER at law firm George Green has been named as an employment judge. Tim Lang will sit part time in the London North and West region. He has been a partner at George Green, which has offices in Cradley Heath and Wolverhampton, since 2003.

Boyfriend stabbed his partner in her stomach

A MAN who stabbed his girlfriend in the stomach with a knife has escaped an immediate jail sentence after a judge heard he had been forgiven by his partner, who wants a future with him.

Emma Horton suffered serious injuries when she was stabbed by 22-year-old boyfriend Nathan Glover. The knife went four-and-a-half inches into her bowel and she required significant medical attention to recover.

At a hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week, Glover admitted stabbing her outside a friend's house in Sedgley. As a basis for a guilty plea for unlawful wounding, he claimed the stabbing was unintentional.

He said the incident happened while he turned to speak to her. He had the knife in his hand to open the front gate as they were leaving the house in Rowan Close, Sedgley, on June 15.

She cried throughout the hearing before celebrating when Recorder Jonathan Edwards spared Glover an immediate prison sentence.

Earliest

Glover, who also admitted attempted burglary after demanding car keys from a nearby resident in a bid to get away, received a 15-month prison sentence, suspended for two years. He was also put on a domestic abuse programme.

The judge told him he could not have complained if he had been jailed but added: "You have displayed remorse, you pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity and most potently of all, the lady not only forgave you, but wants a life with you."

Glover, of Berrybush Gardens, Sedgley, admitted unlawful wounding after pleading not guilty to wounding with intent.

Mr Stephen Cadwallader, defending, said: "This was an isolated incident without any intention whatsoever." For the last five years she has been vicar of St Stephen's Canongate.

She grew up in Worcestershire. "I am very excited to be coming back to my home county, after ministering in London for the past 13 years," she said.

Students back pictures plan

Dudley College students looking through the picture archive at the Express & Star

College students have given a firm thumbs up to the Express & Star's plans to put its photographic collection on the internet during a visit to the newspaper.

A group of photography students from Dudley College, led by lecturer Phil Brooks, visited the newspaper's head office in Wolverhampton to see the photographic archive first hand.

Mr Brooks said the visit was of great benefit to the students, who were studying for an advanced diploma in photography, but said that having the pictures readily

available on the internet would allow students to take advantage of the archive far more often.

"The visit was of massive benefit and interest to the students, looking at earlier styles of photography, and generated a lot of discussion on the way back."

"The idea that there are a nearly a million photographs ready to be scanned is in itself fascinating, and the stories about Wolverhampton Wanderers supporters waiting outside the Express & Star offices in 1908 to get the FA Cup Final score was amazing."

Tia Lloyd, aged 17, from Sedgley, said: "I could have spent hours in there."

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Councillor decides to step down



Councillor Colin Wilson

A COUNCILLOR has announced he is stepping down from his role after almost a decade representing the authority.

Dudley Councillor Colin Wilson will leave his post at the end of his term in May next year.

He makes his announcement as he continues to recover from a period of ill health. Councillor Wilson was elected to represent the Pedmore and Stourbridge East ward in 2004. He has held the ward seat ever since.

Fellow Conservative Mike Wood has been selected as the party's candidate for the ward to take over from Councillor Wilson.

Mr Wood, aged 37, of Langdale Way, is a researcher for Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris.

Councillor Wilson said: "I have really enjoyed the past eight-and-a-half years working for my local community but I know that now is the right time to step down."

Waggon to roll in music

A PUB is getting into the swing of new music nights, with its first 'open mic' event and a forthcoming gig by an award-winning Shadows tribute group.

The Old Waggon and Horses, at Stourbridge Road, Ismere, between Kidderminster and Stourbridge, will host the open mic event on Friday, starting at 7pm. The pub is teaming up with the Wyre Forest VDub Club and is inviting local people to bring their acts along. Then, on October 13, starting at 8pm, Out of the Shadows will return to the Waggon and Horses.

Five days after the Waggon and Horses gig the band will receive an award from Worcestershire Entertainment Committee after being voted top club act in the county.

Conman jailed over fake bike ride for charity

A PROLIFIC conman who convinced people to sign sponsorship forms for a fake charity bike ride for Cancer Research has been jailed for 16 months.

David Armon had 81 convictions for fraud and deception going back to 2004, before he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Mr Paul Reid, prosecuting, said the 24-year-old was spotted by an off-duty police officer on Bridgnorth Road, Stourbridge, on April 29, visiting shops asking for sponsorship. The court heard the officer "was aware of his past".

On this occasion, Armon, of Greenwood Avenue, Rowley Regis, was 'adamant' his name was Adam David Timmins and even produced a photo card driving licence.

He told the officer he was collecting for a

Cancer Research bike ride he was going to do. Police however sent a fingerprint scanner out to the location. Mr Reid said inquiries revealed six businesses had donated around £15 before Armon's arrest and he was found with £42 cash.

Mr Reid said: "He initially said he had not collected any money that day but said he would be coming back to collect. The sponsorship forms also contained fictitious details which the Crown says was to encourage more donations."

"People had donated money in good faith believing they were giving money to Cancer Research."

The court was told Armon gave no comment in police interview. Mr Reid also said the defendant was subject to a suspended 16-week prison sentence for a similar ruse, imposed in October

last year, when he tried his latest scam. The court was told that Armon pleaded guilty at Dudley Magistrates Court on July 29 of six counts of making a false representation to make a gain for himself, another charge of possessing or controlling an identity document with intent, and possessing an article for use in a fraud.

Mr Eddy Tiwana, defending, claimed there had been a 'sea change' in his client's attitude after he had been a chronic drug addict, starting smoking cannabis aged 12, and later moving onto heroin.

But Judge Walsh decided he did not deserve another chance from the courts, and activated the previous 16-week suspended sentence, as well as adding a further 12-month sentence for the latest fraud. Armon was also ordered to pay a £100 statutory surcharge.



Conman David Armon

NEWS in brief

Event at valley is put on hold

A MAJOR event to raise money for a Black Country mayor's charities has been postponed after poor weather was forecast and because of a lack of people signing up to take part.

Activities were set to take place over last Saturday and Sunday in Sandwell Valley Park, including a sponsored walk, mountain bike trial and family entertainment.

The event was being staged to raise funds for Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Linda Horton's two selected charities. It has now been put back until the spring.

Council spokesman Chris Horst said: "Due to lack of entrants and a mixed weather forecast, we've taken the decision to postpone the fundraising weekend until the spring when the weather is better."

"Sorry to anyone who is disappointed. We'll let you know the new date when we have it."

Jewellery fair is ready to sparkle

AN ANNUAL fair showcasing the work of Black Country artists will take place on Saturday.

Netherthorpe Arts Centre, in Northfield Road in Dudley, holds its annual art and jewellery fair from 11am to 4pm. Following the event, an exhibition for the work will be displayed in the centre's Old Library Room until October 11.

At the fair there will also be arts workshops. Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services, said: "It is an early Christmas shopping opportunity for people looking to buy something just a little bit special."



Honour - Lenny Henry

LENNY Henry has been added to the historic roll of honour at Dudley Council House – before he is presented with the Freedom of Borough.

The popular Dudley-born funnyman and Comic Relief campaigner will be at the town hall on October 9 to receive the scroll. Lenny said he was 'deeply humbled and honoured' to receive the award.

He will join a list of names which include mountain climber and peace campaigner MBE Bert Bissell.

The Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeomanry, The Mercian Regiment and The 37th Signal Regiment have also received the freedom of the borough.

To mark the honour, each body and person's name is added to the historic roll of honour at the town Council House. Lenny is the first individual to get the honour in 13 years.

Puzzled

The former Blue Coat School pupil, who often uses the town in stage stories on his childhood, said: "I am deeply humbled and honoured to be receiving the freedom of the borough of Dudley. I know in my heart of hearts that if my parents were alive they would be a little bit puzzled but also incredibly proud of this achievement."

Councillor Alan Finch, Mayor of Dudley, said: "Lenny has helped put Dudley on the map and it is great to see his name added to the roll of honour."

Lenny will receive the honour in recognition of his services to entertainment over the last 27 years by being one of the founders of Comic Relief in 1985. The honour follows on from the CBE he received from the Queen in 1999.

ary. The idea was first proposed last September, but a decision was stalled after councillors asked for a criteria on who qualified to be an Honorary Freeman.

Conservative leader on the council, Councillor Patrick Harley, had wanted the criteria to only fit people who had made a specific contribution to Dudley and its residents, but his motion was defeated. Councillors then voted for Lenny to receive the honour.

In addition to his work as a comedian, actor and writer, Lenny Henry has also helped raise over £800 million pounds for charity over the last 27 years by being one of the founders of Comic Relief in 1985. The honour follows on from the CBE he received from the Queen in 1999.

Firecrews called to computer blaze

A COMPUTER caught fire in a school as crews used a thermal imaging camera to help them put out the smouldering embers. Fire crews were called to Haybridge High School, Hagley, near Stourbridge, on Monday of last week.

Firefighters from Kidderminster arrived and used the thermal imaging equipment to pinpoint the hot spots. No-one was injured and only minor disruption was caused.

Quiz for charity

GRIFFITHS & Pegg's 13th annual charity quiz is at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill, on November 11.

Books ceiling display to Crown it all



Visitor Don Stanley admires the ceiling



Site manager Tom Stevenson at one of the new entrances at the centre

by Louise Jew

the hanging steel 'books', with matching illustrations, created by Stourbridge artist Luke Perry.

Ceiling

One of the first visitors, 66-year old Sue Jones, from Amblecote, Stourbridge, thought it was better than the gateway to Birmingham's new £189 million library.

"Our new Stourbridge Library entrance is light, bright and airy, whereas the Birmingham one is a black ceiling," said Mrs Jones.

The Market Street and Smithfield entrance to the town hall and library, which visitors had been

using during the redevelopment of the Crown Centre for Tesco, are now closed for improvements, with a new ramp to be constructed by developers Bowmer and Kirkland.

Also visible now is one of two relief sculptures in steel of Annabelle Lily and Oscar Hamilton-Roderick, pupils from St James's Primary School, Wollaston, dressed in Victorian clothing, set into the wall.

Dudley Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "We are now in the final stages of completing this important regeneration project in Stourbridge town centre and the town hall and library remain open as they have done throughout the scheme."

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



POOR old devil, I thought, as a mobility scooter wobbled uncertainly towards me on the pavement, the driver unclenched awkwardly over the handlebars, seemingly unable to lift his head. What terrible deformity makes somebody so bent? Turned out he wasn't deformed at all. He was texting.

□□□□□

WHILE Labour and Tory politicians heap scorn upon Ukip, remember this: Ukip is their child. The Labour and Conservative governments created the policies on the EU and immigration which gave birth to Ukip. They sustained those policies with lies and deception which nurtured the growing infant. Today, Ukip is a strapping adolescent with an awful lot of bad friends and its parents know that, before long, it will punch them very hard. That is why Fleet Street's finest, who support a two-party system, set out to scupper Ukip's conference. But I suspect most voters recognise an ambush when they see one, and may even sympathise with the embattled Nigel Farage. The EU Parliament elections are next year and, barring a disaster, I expect Mr Farage's party to give the Tories such a whacking that Call-me-Dave will feel a sudden urge to dump his adopted child Nick and embrace his true son Nigel.

□□□□□

ED Balls, hoping to be the next Chancellor, says he would scrap HS2 if the costs rose. So is this the end of the line? Don't bank on it. There is a theory that Balls is merely "surfing the wave" of public opposition to HS2. Some readers may recall that in the 1990s John Prescott told protesters that a Labour government would not build the controversial M6 Toll, then known as BNR, the Birmingham Northern Relief Road. Labour got elected. The road was built.

□□□□□

THE Daily Mail's latest columnist, introduced with a huge fanfare ("wickedly mischievous!") a few weeks ago, is one Sarah Vine. In this week's offering she complains that her husband has "almost as many pictures of the late Margaret Thatcher in his office as there are of me and the children." Hubby sounds a bit weird, unless you happen to know that in private life Sarah Vine is Mrs Michael Gove, wife of the Secretary of State for Education.

□□□□□

BLIMEY, you don't want to fall out with Stephen Fry, do you? A Daily Telegraph columnist spotted Fry chatting with an actor this week, at the same time as Fry was sending Twitter messages. The writer dared to suggest that Fry did not write his own Tweets. The truth is that "scheduled Tweeting" can send your messages at any time. Infuriated by the column, Fry responded with a raging, frothing, incandescent 1,000-word tirade which must rate as one of the greatest rants of all time. He peppers his online attack with the vilest insults against the hack ("this creep from the inner ring of Satan's rectum"), the Telegraph and the printed media in general. Do have a look at it. It is magnificently venomous and I guarantee you'll never think of Stephen Fry, formerly Jeeves the valet and now the camply erudite presenter of the quiz show QI, in quite the same way again. Don't tell him I said so. It's at <http://stephen-fry-me.tumblr.com/post/61754597917/some-weasels-of-a-telephone-journo-wants-me-to-give-up>.

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ED MILIBAND says a Labour government will prevent energy companies from raising their prices. This may look like bad news for the power generators but it's fantastic news for candlemakers.

□□□□□

TEMPTED by a £25 M&S voucher, I took part in a phone survey on household insurance. I may not be getting the voucher because I didn't really answer the last question. They asked: "Are you satisfied with the level of cover and the service you receive from your insurance company?" I replied: "Can I answer that question the morning after the house burns down?" No-one knows how good an insurer is until something goes wrong.

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**Don't miss Peter Rhodes
every Monday to Friday in
your Express & Star**

Partying on after school's award win



Peppa Pig and centre manager Simon Baggott with two of the youngsters enjoying themselves

THE Kingswinford school is celebrating after being crowned as one of the best in the UK in the country's leading parenting awards.

The Water Street school in Dudley was voted as the top venue to hold a child's birthday party by mothers from all over the West Midlands from the UK's largest parenting site Netmums.com.

The award was made at the school's open morning which took place on Saturday, September 21. The Kingswinford School beat off rivals from hun-

dreds of other schools and businesses across the West Midlands area to win the prestigious award.

Dubbed the UK's 'Parenting Oscars', more than million parents and child carers were eligible to vote for the huge UK-wide prize.

Memories

Headteacher, Mrs Bronwyn Hedley, said: "As a school we are delighted to win this award and would like to thank everyone who voted for us."

Simon Baggott, centre manager, added: "We work

hard to provide the best memories for children at their parties and I would also personally like to thank all parents who voted for us to make us the West Midlands winner!"

"To be crowned as the best in the West Midlands is fantastic news and we are so proud local parents love what we do and want the rest of the country to know about us too."

For more information on holding a child's birthday party, contact Simon on 01384 296596 or email sbaggott@kingswinford.dudley.sch.uk

Crash tragedy driver admits causing death

Star Tuffers bowls them over



Phil Tufnell with fundraising manager Sofia Voutianitis, and a signed photo to be sold

CRICKET star Phil Tufnell turned on the charm as he regaled them with tales from the Ashes and gossip from the dressing room to delight audiences at a charity bash.

The ex-England spin bowler, now a TV star, has become known as much for his off the field antics as his skills with a cricket ball. And there was much material to delve into as he took to the stage as after-dinner speaker at an event in Brierley Hill last night. Tufnell was guest at a fundraiser for the Midlands Air Ambulance and spinal injuries charity Trust PA at the Copthorne Hotel at The Waterfront. He happily chatted

with VIPs, shared jokes with guests and posed for pictures ahead of dinner.

"I've spoken to quite a few cricket fans here tonight excited about the Ashes this winter. I don't think it is going to be quite as straightforward as this summer and I think it will be a lot tighter."

Air ambulance regional fundraising manager Sophia Voutianitis said: "It is wonderful to have Phil here and we have to thank Jilly Edge from Events with the Edge who organised the evening. We have to raise £6 million a year to keep the aircraft in the sky so we need all the support we can get."

A MAN from Stourbridge has admitted causing the death of his girlfriend in a road crash. Thomas Whitehouse was driving a Vauxhall Astra when he hit a tree on the A449 in Cookley in December last year.

His 26-year-old girlfriend Samantha Jennings, who was sat in the front passenger seat, died in the crash.

An inquest into the mother's death earlier this year, Mr Whitehouse said he could not remember the crash or the evening.

But appearing at Worcester Crown Court, Whitehouse, aged 23, of Burns Close, pleaded guilty to causing her death by careless driving. He also admitted to possessing cannabis.

A test following the fatal crash found no alcohol in Whitehouse's blood, but cannabis was detected, although it was unknown how much was taken.

Reasonable

The pair had driven back from Birmingham and had picked up two people, including friend Leander Mock, who was sat in the back seat when the vehicle crashed.

At the inquest at Worcestershire Coroners Court in April, Mr Mock said: "I only saw Tom (Whitehouse) have one drink all evening and we were going at a reasonable speed not going above the limit." He said he had felt "bump" before the car started to skid and it felt like the rear tyres had left the road.

The inquest also heard that none of the car passengers were wearing seatbelts at the time of the crash.

Miss Jennings, who is from Aldridge Close in Wordsley, died at the crash scene near the Island Pool pub, on December 8. She had been 29.



Killed - Samantha Jennings

two boys aged eight and nine and worked as a care assistant, looking after adults

with disabilities.

She was a former pupil of the Glynn Primary School and Summerhill School in Kingswinford.

In a tribute following her death, her family said: "Sam was a caring person, an angel. Sam was vivacious, a party girl, who lived life to the full. She had the world at her feet, and was so happy."

Days following her death, her family suffered a second blow when thieves ransacked the home of her 83-year-old grandmother in Kingswinford. Whitehouse will be sentenced at Worcester Crown Court on November 29.

Firm in scrap metal service launch success

A BRIERLEY Hill recycling business has seen growing demand for its free legal scrap metal collection service since its launch in the summer.

Mason Metals in Two Woods Lane teamed up with Dudley Council to offer the alternative to unlicensed collectors to pick up white goods such as cookers, dishwashers, washing machines and tumble dryers.

After the company's environmental and health and safety policies were approved its domestic collection team was able to start visiting Dudley Borough residents who were referred from the council's website.

Managing director Andrew Jones said it had been so popular that a daily collection diary covering specific local areas was now in place.

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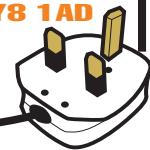
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Boost for homes in borough at village

DUDLEY is set to see the supply of new homes in the town boosted with the sale of a 4.76 acre former industrial site within Saltwells Nature Reserve.

There is currently outline planning permission for up to 70 homes situated off Saltwells Lane.

The Saltwells Village site is adjacent to Mushroom Green village and conservation Area, and is within walking distance of Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

It is being marketed for sale by Midlands-based agent Jon Flowith & Partner, with planning permission granted for the demolition of an existing 100,000 sq ft industrial unit at the gateway to Saltwells Nature Reserve, which was previously occupied by Kuehne & Nagel.

Rare

Jon Flowith, senior partner of Jon Flowith & Partners, said: "The plans for Saltwells Village look set to breathe new life into a former industrial site, giving Dudley homebuyers the very rare opportunity to live within one of the UK's largest urban nature reserves."

According to data from Zoopla, Dudley has been one of the top performing areas in the UK so far this year, with the average house price in the town rising by almost seven per cent over the last six months.

Elizabeth Flowith, senior surveyor said: "This is excellent news for homebuyers."

Welfare bus back on road

A 'WELFARE on wheels' bus is going back on the road this week offering advice to people affected by the recent changes to housing benefits.

The Dudley Federation of Tenants and Residents Association is sending the bus back out on the road and is also providing volunteers to help. Visitors will be able to ask about benefits, budgeting and moving home.

Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member for housing and community safety, said: "We took the bus around the borough in July and the response was very positive."

The bus will be at Market Place, Dudley on Thursday and Asda car park, Brierley Hill, on Friday, from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Listed house is put on the market for £450k



The King Charles House ceiling

A GRADE II listed Georgian-style house standing in the shadow of Dudley Castle has gone on the market for around £450,000.

King Charles House, which was once part of the Association of Conservative Clubs, is seen by thousands driving through the town each year visiting the castle and zoo.

In recent years it has been the headquarters for a business management firm and a conferencing centre used by Dudley Council.

But now the property, which

stands at the top of Castle Hill, near St Edmund Church, known locally as Bottom Church, is going up for sale. Estate agency Bond Wolfe is managing the sale of the three-storey building and officials said it has had a varied history through the decades.

Benefit

Spokesman Paul Bassi said: "The building is hugely impressive, and is something of a local landmark. It is an iconic building of great local architectural and historical interest."

"The property would benefit

from modernisation throughout but offers a great deal of potential due to its unique characteristics and location.

The Castle Hill area is presently undergoing a £10m revamp to link attractions such as the zoo and Black Country Living Museum and boost annual visitor numbers towards one million.

It is believed King Charles House was once a manor house and still retains many fixtures and fittings. These include the cellar which has the original meat hooks and slate shelves that were used to store meat and cheese.



King Charles House - for sale

Nothing left for appeal on Luke's conviction – family

THEY remortgaged their home twice, have taken out a bank loan and are paying off up to four credit cards – but the family of a man convicted of killing his girlfriend are yet to raise a penny towards an appeal hearing to clear his name.

Luke Walker was convicted of causing the death of his girlfriend Chelsea Hyndman while on holiday in Crete by a Greek court following a two-day trial earlier this year.

The 24-year-old has always protested his innocence and his family has backed him in his battle, which has proved costly in legal bills.

After his conviction Luke's grandmother gave her life savings towards a £8,522 bail surety to bring him home after he appealed, which resulted in an eight-year prison sentence being suspended.

But today, the family from Brierley Hill are yet to begin saving for the appeal hearing next year – instead they are still paying off debts accumulated from the initial trial.

A £17,000 solicitor's bill is yet to be paid off the trial and they are still paying off thousands of pounds in credit cards and loans.

Credit

Luke's older brother Ryan, aged 31, said: "We are in a nightmare – it's almost like we are beyond help right now."

"We want to save but we are so stretched at the moment by paying off the last trial and solicitors bills that we can't yet start putting money toward the next hearing yet."

"We're paying off three to four credit cards, a couple of mortgages and a loan – I think it is about £50,000 worth in total."

"We think the next trial is going to cost another £20,000 to £30,000 as we have to fly everyone out there, the witness and medical people – we have to pay for the whole lot."

"But we have to do it, we have to clear Luke's name. We have thought about what if we can't, of course, but we must believe. We're praying we win the lottery, or anything."

Ryan works alongside his father Patrick, runs Walker's Electrics in Brierley Hill.



Luke Walker with his father, Patrick, who, with the rest of the family, has continued to back him in the fight to clear his name

in Gayfield Avenue, Withymoor, ahead of his parents Patrick and Lindy selling the family home to rent another property in the area.

He said: "We wanted the best possible defence, but it has cost us and now we are paying for it, plus we have to start all over again now. We've ended up losing everything, it's been a really difficult few years for everyone connected."

Ryan works alongside his father Patrick, runs Walker's Electrics in Brierley Hill.

"We hope the equity from the house will

pay off the debts and leave us a bit of money for going back over there," said Patrick.

"We have to find somewhere to rent, it is sad, because everything we have done for our lives has gone. But at the end of the day it's our son and we will do everything for him to prove his innocence."

The jury at the Mixed Criminal Court of Heraklion heard how Chelsea, from Castleford in West Yorkshire, had died after she was taken to hospital with abdominal pains. Chelsea, who lived with Luke on the island,

was pronounced dead on May 17 2010 from acute peritonitis, having suffered deteriorating health for a few days.

Greek prosecutors claimed she was beaten by Luke – but Luke said the injuries came from when she fell on a cobbled street during a night out 10 days before she died.

Luke was initially charged with murdering Chelsea, but this was downgraded to a lesser charge of grievous bodily harm leading to death. The appeal is expected to take place at the end of May next year.



Luke with his girlfriend Chelsea Hyndman, age 20



Luke Walker leaves a court hearing in Greece along with friends and members of his family

NEWS

in brief

Kittens found dumped in box

TWELVE kittens were dumped in a cardboard box on a car park next to a busy main road – prompting animal welfare charity bosses to appeal for information to trace the owner.

A walker found inside a towel-covered McCoy's crisp box outside Laser Quest in Amblecote High Street. They took the kittens, aged between six and seven weeks old, home before alerting the RSPCA the next day. It is believed the kittens, which were found last Tuesday, are from at least two litters.

They are now in good health and are being cared for at a RSPCA Centre. It is believed they were dumped between 8.30pm and 9.30pm on Tuesday.

Five of the kittens are tabby and white while the rest are black with some white markings. Anyone who has information can call 0300 123 8018.

Thousands more bins to be sent out

THOUSANDS more homes across Dudley will be receiving wheelie bins for household rubbish from next month.

A total 40,000 households will have the bins when the £2.5million project by Dudley Council is complete. It started on July 1 and from this month, the council will continue its roll-out with the second phase of homes to be included.

Residents will also receive two bags for paper, card, plastic bottles and cans as part of the expansion of recycling services.

Beer boost for mayor's appeal

A PUB has brewed up a treat for real ale lovers in aid of a good cause. The Old Swan in Netherton, known locally as Ma Pardoe's, has launched its latest ale, Golden Chains, in aid of the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

The golden beer will go on sale at the pub in Halesowen Road, Netherton, and dozens of other real ale pubs which receive its deliveries and are looking to support the charity venture.

Store start delay

PROPOSALS for a supermarket in Gornal are unlikely to be submitted until the New Year. If approved, it would be built on land in Zoar Street. But bosses said they were still waiting for legal teams to finish looking plans.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

SHOCK news from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, which concluded last week that it was '95 per cent certain' that climate change, er exists.

A bit of a surprise really, because I'm sure most of us were expecting them to say something along the lines of 'we're pretty sure there's no such thing as climate change, so you can make us all redundant'.

Still, the news has got Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a little bit rattled. He wants leaders of the world to come together next year for an international climate summit.

Of course he does. People like him love summits, don't they? Summits on world energy, a summit on sustainable development, a summit on the EU budget and no doubt summit for the weekend.

Still, at least we can expect it to be a little different from the usual run-of-the-mill banquet and booze-up.

For a start, none of the delegates will be arriving on one of those filthy jumbo jets which pollute the sky. Instead they will all be packed like sardines into crowded transcontinental railway carriages, having arrived in mainland Europe or wherever by car ferry.

And instead of being chauffeured to the conference hall in a convoy of gleaming gas-guzzling limousines, the world leaders will all be making their entrance by means of 'sustainable transport' - which presumably means a bike. And what would you say are the odds of any of this happening?

Well a report from the Inter-governmental Panel on Flying Pigs has come to the conclusion that it is 'more than 95 per cent' certain that none of the above will take place.

□□□□□

THIS week hundreds of commuters in London were greeted at the railway stations by anti-smoking campaigners in zombie costumes urging them to give up the cigs.

Given that this was the early-morning rush hour, perhaps they were trying to blend into their surroundings.

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CAN'T buy into all the scare stories that 'the lights will go out' if Ed Miliband goes ahead with his plans to freeze energy prices for 20 months.

After all, there were very tight regulations imposed on the energy companies after they were privatised 20-odd years ago, and it seemed to work then.

Trouble is, now that Ed has given two years advanced notice of his plans, the energy companies will almost certainly decide to get in first and put the prices up while they still can. Not that they need much encouraging.



Mr Hill and Brenda, who got wed in 1947



Just a number – prisoners of war at Changi Prison where Mr Hill was sent



Mr Hill's Prisoner medal at the front

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

SPEEDWAY fans were lucky to escape serious injury when a lump of concrete smashed through the roof of their coach from a motorway flyover. The Cradley Heath fans were returning from seeing their side race at Eastbourne when vandals hurled a 9in block of concrete from a bridge in Buckinghamshire.

GRANNY Hilda Fellows was tickled pink when she met comedian Ken Dodd and his merry band of clowns. Mrs Fellows, from Walsall, was one of hundreds of fans who turned out to see the funnyman open Boardman's furniture store in Market Street, Wolverhampton.

THE number of people claiming unemployment benefit rose to more than 3.1 million to give a new jobless rate of 13.3 per cent. The rise was mainly down to the number of school-leavers claiming benefit for the first time. In the West Midlands, unemployment rate rose to 16 per cent.

1993...

IN North Yorkshire it was reported that a 13-year-old arsonist was enjoying a round of 'adventure holidays' at the taxpayers' expense. As part of a two-year supervision order, the youngster, from Richmond, had spent two weeks at a summer camp in Britain, had been on two sailing courses, and had stayed on the shore of a Swedish lake.

STRIKES by Britain's firemen were 'inevitable' said their union leader. The Fire Brigades Union was about to ballot its members about strike action in response to a 1.5 per cent ceiling on public-sector pay rises. Home Secretary Michael Howard said there was no justification for giving firefighters preferential treatment. But FBU leader Ken Cameron accused the Government of putting the public at risk for a marginal amount of money.

2003...

WINDOW tycoon Carl Painter was one of the first potential investors to express an interest in taking Wolves over, after owner Sir Jack Hayward said he would be offering the club 'free to a good home'. The Wolves chairman said he would give the club free of charge if somebody came forward with a commitment to invest in the club's future. Mr Painter said he would be prepared to put £10 million into the club.

BRUMMIE Cat Deeley was to host the Royal Variety Performance, it was announced, with tenor Luciano Pavarotti sharing the bill with chart stars Busted, Westlife, Gloria Estefan and Donny Osmond.

SINGER Robert Palmer died of a heart attack, aged 54.

Former PoW tells of horrific jungle ordeal

LOUISE JEW speaks to a true survivor, Ken Hill, who spent three-and-a-half years in captivity at the hands of the Japanese during the Second World War

TO THE Japanese, Ken Hill was just a number – 7601985 – forced to slave day after day on the infamous Burma railway, kept barely alive by stomach-churning rations of rice, with beetles and maggots as the only protein.

Amazingly, while thousands of his comrades fell victim to die from exhaustion or cholera, Netherton-born Ken is a true survivor who has made old bones, despite three-and-a-half years in captivity that reduced him to a near-skeleton.

He's now 92, with very poor sight, having also fought through three serious operations for ulcers and stomach cancer – possibly caused by his appalling abuse under the brutal Japanese thumb.

More than 70 years after he was captured, he still carries around his PoW number tag, light as a feather, in his back pocket.

It is not that he has dwelled upon his harrowing ordeal during the Second World War – he's had a 66-year-long marriage to wife, Brenda, raised two sons, lovingly tended his canalside garden in High Street, Swindon, near Dudley, and enjoyed a long career as an electrician.

It is only over the last few years that the great grandfather has opened up to family and friends about his horrific experiences and, following this month's 68th anniversary of Victory over Japan (VJ) Day, he has spoken more freely.

He's never asked for any help.

Some years ago he was turned down for a war pension but he is now getting support from Blind Veterans UK, which he joined last October and which has arranged an alarm button for him to carry



True survivor – war veteran and former Prisoner of War Kenneth Hill, aged 92

around his neck, a speaking alarm clock and breaks for him and Brenda at seaside hotels around England and Wales.

Ken joined the Territorial Army Field Workshop in June 1939, aged just 18, and at the end of 1941 he and his unit sailed to Singapore, where they set up a workshop to maintain guns.

In February 1942 the forces in Singapore surrendered to the Japanese after a siege, as soldiers scavenged in the streets in search of food and water.

They didn't give in with a whimper – and Ken recalls how when General Arthur Percival surrendered, he and his colleagues took up their instructions to smash the machines in the workshop, scupper a large crane,

drive lorries into a canal and burn their rifles to stop the Japanese getting them on them.

The corporal mechanician was imprisoned in the notorious Changi jail, near Singapore, where he briefly caught sight of his older brother, Staff Sgt Geoff Hill, who was also a PoW and survived his own hell in a prison camp in Borneo.

Ken said: "The Japanese showed us a shelf with five severed heads on it. They told us that it is what happens to losers."

Then followed a 250-mile march for Ken and his comrades through the jungle to the Burma border, where they started their slog to build the railway.

Ken faced many dangers in captiv-

ity – cholera, the threat of torture if he did not behave and even the fear of execution.

He said: "The brutality of the Japanese guards is well known and they would use the dreaded 'speedo' – a bamboo stick that they would hit people with as they yelled 'speedo, speedo,' to make them work faster.

"There were 7,000 of us to start with – but in the first six months 4,000 died and I don't think any more than 1,000 survived the war. I was lucky as I was young and fit. I remained healthy and that generally kept me safe."

It was the news of the atomic bomb attacks on Nagasaki and Hiroshima in August 1945 that brought about the end of the war in the Far East and secured the release of Ken and his comrades.

"That bomb saved our lives," he said.

Ken added: "At last it was time to return home and we boarded a boat for Southampton.

"Our first meal on board was rice. There was almost a riot but the captain explained that doctors said as we'd eaten rice for three-and-a-half years our stomachs wouldn't initially be able to take rich foods. They gradually built us up to eat properly – and I haven't been able to eat rice since."

It was only after he returned he realised the untold anguish his parents, Ernie and Elsie, had been through. They had barely received notice that Ken and his brother Geoff were prisoners of the Japanese.

Now Ken marks VJ Day, as he has done every year, by thinking of everyone he knew during that awful time.

"I keep the steel plate with my name, rank and number in my back pocket to remind me. I do it for everyone I knew and for the thousands of men and women who lost their lives," he said.

Blind Veterans UK launched a 'No One Alone' campaign in October 2012 and wants vision-impaired veterans and their families to know that, if they have served their country, no matter in which conflict, they can get help, including training, rehabilitation and holidays at www.noonealone.org.uk or by phoning 0800 389 7979.

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Judi Brown the AMBL on the Pitchford-Wembridge Road towards Moreton

Autumn is upon us and it's time to get back into the garden so why not discover one of the regions finest independent garden centres - Beechcroft, The Nursery with the GROW HOW! Located just off the A491 at the Fairfield / Stoneybridge roundabout heading towards Romsley, Beechcroft Nurseries and Garden Centre is well worth a visit.

The business is now operated by Paul Billingham, established some forty-five years ago by Alan Billingham - although a nursery existed in the site some twenty-five years earlier. Their aim is to produce as much as possible of the stock on the nursery for sale on the garden centre, thus ensuring top quality produce at value for money prices.

This is particularly evident in their top quality bedding, basket and container plants (sought after by amateurs and professional alike) and in the vast range of shrubs offered - all fresh from the Nursery. They were one of the first nurseries in the UK to grow and offer true Winter Pansies, which are now available.

The selection of trees from all over the world on offer at Beechcroft is unique and one would need to travel many a mile to even equal their choice. The Autumn is the best time to plan fruit trees for both the patio and garden and you will find an abundance of these at Beechcroft, along with Soft Fruit Bushes.

Beechcroft also features a large range of rhododendrons and azaleas, Japanese Acers, Bamboo, Roses, Alpine, Culinary Herbs, Heathers, Grasses, Conifers both large and

dwarf for all situations, outdoor Ferns (ideal for many urban gardens) and Climbing Plants, including a wide range of Clematis and Wisteria.

The collection of country garden herbaceous perennials offered at Beechcroft will bring joy to any lover of these more popular than ever plants. Our choice of the finest bulbs will also enhance your garden borders or container planting.

Terracotta and wooden planters are available in all sizes along with a well-stocked garden shop containing almost everything one needs to care for your garden plus many delightful gifts, garden features, furniture and water features. Plus there are dedicated and knowledgeable staff that will help with any request or problems you may have in your garden.

One visit to Beechcroft will ensure many return visits I am sure!

LETTERS**Lots of trouble at the checkout**

MYSELF and my 42-year-old mother were stood at the checkout at a branch of Home Bargains after a brief shop when the special offer of four bottles of Carlsberg alerted our attention as an ideal purchase for an upcoming family event.

As my mum had proceeded in beginning to put our items in a bag, she asked me to quickly pick up a single box of the lagers, which I did before pricing them on the conveyor belt. When the frankly rude and abrupt employee at the checkout got around to scanning the lagers,

Hodge's top ideas for billions

I WAS delighted to hear Margaret Hodge on the Today programme suggesting that the HS2 budget would be better spent on improving the existing rail lines and trains.

She suggested a line from Bristol to Liverpool. Both ideas are excellent.

Therefore, would she and her colleagues not like the £40-80 billion for HS2 to be spent on returning trains and stations to the 13 miles of existing double track rail lines between Stourbridge, Dudley and Walsall in the congested West Midlands?

Or, completing the electrification of our rail network, started in the 1950 but, still not finished? Switzerland did theirs in the 1920s and 30s.

Or, turning our 19th century rail network of Victorian signal boxes (the one at Round Oak, Brierley Hill in Dudley was burned to the ground in the 1990s so that is one less). In addition, New Street Station is the rail bottleneck of the UK.

TIM WELLER,
Halesowen.

LETTERS

to the Editor

POST

Stourbridge Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Still buildings that need to be dealt with

I READ that Dudley Council has helped to bring about the opening of a new restaurant in Charlton House on the corner of New Street and Priory Street in Dudley. How much longer will The Crown on the corner of Wolverhampton Street and Priory Street remain empty?

I remember reading that they spent thousands 'doing up' that building, but it is a long-standing eyesore with muslin slung across the windows and no sign of occupancy. Anyone willing to say? Also, whilst on the subject of derelict buildings, what about Welcome Home Designs at the top end of Wolverhampton Street, also one of the gateways into Dudley? This building is anything but welcoming.

MRS L SHELDON, The Broadway, Dudley.

Selfish petrolheads

IT IS good to see that Dudley Council has decided to lock the car park gate at the Tenscore in Sedgley. This is because of certain people who have no care for others.

Petrolheads revving their engines and blasting their horns and, in some cases, smashing the small wooden boundary fence round the car park and driving on the grass. Unfortunately, it spoils the chance of families using the Tenscore on a weekend because the car park is locked.

NORMAN D CADDICK, Upp'r Ettingshall Rd, Coseley.

she stopped and with a huff said: "I can't serve you these." When we queried why, the employee decided that because, I, as a 6ft 4in university student had physically plucked the 'restricted age items' from the shelf, my mum was unable to purchase them.

We were bemused, and left even more perplexed as we remained polite and declined against argument.

My mum then completed the transaction, before returning to the rear of the queue without me with a new box of lagers, only to be told uncompromis-

ingly, "you're attempting to buy these for someone under age, we cannot serve you". Admittedly, I was not carrying any ID, but to refuse selling alcohol to a 42-year-old on the false presumption that I would be the consumer appears lacking in common sense.

Would there be a similar outcome if a child was asked to retrieve a bottle of wine from the bottom shelf for a parent/guardian unable to bend?

JOSH CRAMPTON,
Warner Drive, Amblecote.

Aid gripes are ignored

AS I have said before, Joe Public can shout about our money going to despots all they want but it falls on deaf ears. There are millions of people in our country this money should go to.

We are trillions of pounds in debt and what do the brains of Britain do, borrow more to send in the form of aid to a country that claimed they didn't need it? Get our country right and put us first Dave for a change.

JOHN PERKINS,
Dudley.

Thanks for cash boost

THE members of the Stourbridge branch of the Royal Air Forces Association wish to thank everyone who supported us over the Battle of Britain weekend. Due to their usual generosity, this year's Wings Appeal raised £1,921 which will be used for the welfare support of RAFA for ex-members of the Royal Air Force.

**THE REV
TOM CHAPMAN,
Branch secretary.**

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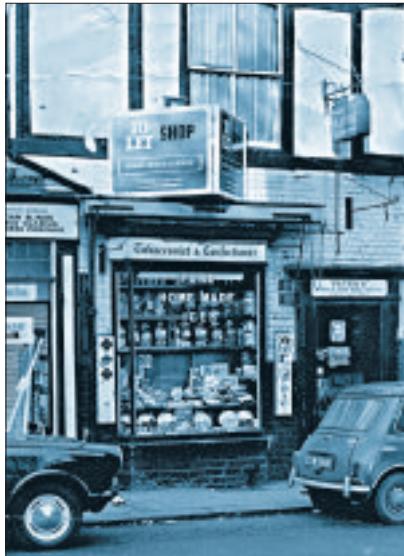
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MEMORY LANE

Peter's sweet shop in Castle Street, seen just before it closed down in 1969, no doubt frequented by young Des



St Edmund's Church's clock was visible from the Baylies Charity School, Tower Street



Watson's Green Road, Dudley – Des moved here with his family when he was young

THE RECENT article about the early life in Dudley of Duncan Edwards has prompted Des Stokes to write in – as he knew the father of the acclaimed footballer 'who like myself used the Dudley Labour Club in Stafford Street'.

Des himself was born and raised in Dudley and shares with us his memories of his schooldays.

He points out that: "It is usually only in later years that our schooldays are looked back upon as the 'best years of our lives'. We rarely recall those days at school when we fervently wished we hadn't got to attend, and our thoughts were only on the next school holiday."

"Apart from a short time at Kates Hill Infants, (which in those days was known locally as 'the Board School'), my schooldays were spent at the Baylies Charity School."

"It was many years before I discovered that 'Board School' did not imply that Kates Hill formerly took in boarders or had been constructed of timber, but was instituted by a body named the Board of Education prior to being under the jurisdiction of the Local Education Authority."

"It was this later authority which decreed the family had to be rehoused from 'The Huts'. These were properly named municipal dwellings and originally were built for workers at the National Munitions Works during the 1914-18 War. We moved to the Watson's Green area, and it was not possible for my further education to follow the same path as my brothers (I was the youngest of five). You must understand, Madam, that you no longer dwell in the catchment area of

Accolades for college students with Jade a cut above the rest

STUDENTS were walking tall – with a little help from performers on stilts – as they celebrated their college successes.

More than 70 students at Dudley College were honoured at the annual Celebrating Success Awards, picking up accolades for their hard work and determination over the academic year.

They let their hair down with family, friends and tutors at a glittering ceremony held at the college's Broadway Campus.

Tutors were asked to nominate students they thought deserved recognition for their

by Louise Jew

special achievements, and those who, through their sheer determination and effort, have reached their goals.

More than 300 guests were served cocktails and canapés in a marquee and entertained by college music students performing cool, sharp jazz, along with costumed characters dressed as 'stilt walkers' and 'Candy Dandy' hosts.

The characters were created by students from the Diploma Production Arts Level 3, who are studying costume, make-up and technical effects for film, TV and theatre.

Among the winners was 23-year-old wheelchair bound Alex Giles, of Stourbridge, who earned a 'Contribution to College Life' award.

He has gained his BTec Level III extended diploma in sport, FA Level 1 coaching in football and a sports leadership qualification and is now off to the University of Worcester to study sports development and coaching.

Encouraged

Alex, who was class representative and joined the 'Dudley Buddy' programme to help other learners, said: "From the day I arrived I knew it was the place for me to

achieve what I wanted to do. They encouraged me to contribute advice on disabilities and sport, to join in other lessons and work with them."

He added: "It's much better than when I was a small child, when disabled kids were asked to keep the score. "I can see there being lots of work that I can do to help."

Among other award winners was Jade Dowd Guest, a hairdressing apprentice from Euphoria Hair in Wordsley.

Jade, aged 18, from Stourbridge, said: "I took the apprentice route because I could get more salon experience. I've enjoyed it from day one."



Jade Dowd-Guest is congratulated by Euphoria colleagues

Charity boost thanks to trio



Fiona Mellor, right, with her training partners, left, Katie Tomkins and Becca Roberts, at the Great North Run

A PROPERTY consultant has completed the world's biggest half marathon in under two hours, raising more than £550 for Stourbridge-based charity Max Appeal in the process.

Fiona Mellor, an Associate Director at Harris Lamb in Birmingham, trained hard for months to compete in the 33rd Great North Run in Newcastle upon Tyne, calling for sponsorship from friends, family and colleagues to raise funds for Max Appeal.

Max Appeal was founded by parents of children diagnosed with DiGeorge Syndrome/VCF3/22q11.2 deletion.

Fiona said that the charity, which is run by a team of dedicated volunteers, needed all the awareness and support it could get when it came to educating people about the syndrome, and that knowing someone who had lost a son to the illness had cemented her decision to run for them.

Fiona ran with her training partners Katie Tomkins and Becca Roberts, both of whom also ran to raise funds for Max Appeal.

Grateful

"I do a lot of running, but the Great North Run has been a long-held ambition of mine. As the biggest half-marathon in the world, it has a real status about it, and taking part was fantastic.

"While the weather wasn't the greatest, it wasn't as bad as the forecast had led me to believe, and I was grateful for that. There was a great atmosphere and I loved every minute."

"I completed it in under two hours – 1 hour and 58 minutes to be precise, so I was delighted with my time – I was only 58 minutes behind Mo Farah! I also managed to raise more than £550 for Max Appeal, which will contribute to the charity's work in raising awareness and research into treatment for children diagnosed with DiGeorge Syndrome."

Fiona is now continuing her training to compete in the Birmingham Half Marathon in a couple of weeks with a team of colleagues from Harris Lamb.

Workers are wanted for Argos festive rush

ARGOS is recruiting seasonal workers to help out in the run up to Christmas. Initial contracts are for around three months, with the potential for some jobs to become permanent at the end of the season, where vacancies exist.

Among its chain of 735 stores, there are outlets in Dudley; Halesowen, Kidderminster, Merry Hill and West Bromwich. John Walden, managing director of Argos said: "As we approach our busiest shopping period of the year, we need the extra support in our stores from enthusiastic colleagues."

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NEWS

Builder's thanks on rubble rescue

A BUILDER has relived the terrifying moment when a wall collapsed burying him face down beneath a pile of bricks and rubble.

Peter Davies, of Brierley Hill, had been helping his brother take down the wall at the graveyard of Spring Meadow Church, Old Hill, when it suddenly became unstable.

The 40-year-old suffered a severe leg fracture and a compression fracture of his spine. He was rescued crews from West Midlands Ambulance Service and recently paid a visit to the trust's headquarters in Brierley Hill to thank them in person.

Surgery

Mr Davies, a self-employed builder, spent four weeks at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital undergoing surgery on his injured leg. He was also treated at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital. He said: "I remember the wall falling down and I remember seeing the first paramedic. I also remember the people in orange (the air ambulance paramedic and doctor) and I remember asking if I was going to die and hearing the answer 'no'. That is all I can recall."

He added: "I was delighted to come



The team – from left, call taker Lucy Beardsmoor, paramedic Peter Boaz, area support officer Martin Eaton, technician Darren Roberts, responder paramedic, Rachael Watkins, with front, Peter and Debbie Davies

to the headquarters and say thank you to everyone in person. It is a good feeling to meet the people who have helped you. I want to thank everyone for everything they did that day.

"Footballers get paid a lot of money but it people like these truly worth their weight in gold, 10 times over."

Birmingham-based paramedic Peter Boaz, was part of the ambulance crew that attended and said: "It's humbling to see Peter and Debbie again and for them to take the time to come and thank us in person.

"We wish them all the best in his journey to recovery."

Historic works site on sale

AN INDUSTRIAL site in Stourbridge that dates back 120 years is being sold for redevelopment.

Worcester-based agents Halls Wilkins Commercial is handling the sale of Titan Works, a 3.24-acre site on Old Wharf Road.

The former engineering works is sited close to the town centre and alongside the historic Stourbridge Canal T

he site has exciting development potential for residential, retail, leisure and commercial uses, subject to planning, according to Halls Wilkins commercial partner Rob Champion. Old Wharf Road is off the A491 Stour-

bridge to Kingswinford Road known as High Street.

The property comprises two land parcels to the north and south of Old Wharf Road.

Workshop

To the north is a collection of industrial and manufacturing buildings with associated offices, which was originally the headquarters of engineering firm Jones & Attwood. To the south, open car parking land and a disused weighbridge front the canal.

A further 1.35 acres comprising a single-storey 11,423 sq ft industrial workshop is also available. There are two small yards at either end of the building and an area of open storage

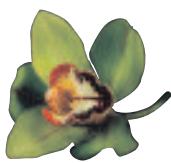
land between the building and the canal. Mr Champion said: "Titan Works is no longer suitable for longer term industrial and manufacturing uses and the opportunity therefore exists for alternative uses to be explored, subject to planning. The site lies within an area identified for potential housing development."

Jones & Attwood opened the works in 1893 and added an iron foundry three years later and a second one in 1920. The company originally made gratings and pipe fittings and later moved into heating systems and sewage equipment. In the First World War its made water pumps that were used in the trenches.

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Brush up on techniques at series of art classes

BUDGING artists keen to learn new techniques to bring their work to life are being urged to sign up to new classes.

The courses are taking place at venues across Stourbridge and Halesowen aimed at inspiring people to get creative on canvas.

People will be able to learn a range of techniques from Stourbridge professional artist Pascale Bigot, who has exhibited and taught adult education classes for 15 years. All levels of skill are welcome at the classes, which started last week.

Each Tuesday classes are at The Talbot Hotel, in Stourbridge High Street. The class will take place

10am and 12pm teaching landscapes in soft pastels, learning about drawing and composition.

The second class will be from 12.15pm to 2.15pm in the same venue, focusing on polymer clay creations such as jewellery and contemporary bowls.

A class is also taking place each Wednesday at Quinton Methodist Church, Ridgeway Avenue, Quinton, Halesowen, from 10.30am until 1pm, following techniques used by Matisse. Pascale will host a class on Thursdays at Long Lane Library, Long Lane, Halesowen, between 10am and noon on drawing and shading movement.

For details, call 01384 444939.



Learner Susan Lisseter, Pascale Bigot, who holds the art classes, and Judy Hill, show off their items

Residential home threatened with closure to be sold

A RESIDENTIAL care home in Kingswinford threatened with closure will be sold after councillors revealed they cannot afford its running costs or £750,000 of renovations. Campaigners who have fought for two years to save New Bradley Hall said they had hoped it would stay under council control.

Dudley Council's adult services boss, Councillor Dave Branwood, said inviting tenders from not-for-profit organisations or social enterprise groups was the only way forward.

He claimed the decision removed the 'uncertainty' for residents and staff by guaranteeing a future for the home. Around 40 staff work there and the council said permanent jobs would be protected when they are transferred to the new operator.

Twenty elderly residents live at New Bradley Hall with some beds for respite patients. But it will be sold for use as a long-term residential home.

The council refused to reveal the price it would be marketed for, saying it would be 'commercially sensitive'.

But Councillor Branwood vowed not to sell to a private firm which could close it and redevelop the site and said legal covenants would be inserted to ensure it stays as a residential home.

He said the council had listened to more than 5,000 people who had signed a petition demanding it stay open.

"The people living and working at New



Sell-off - New Bradley Hall care home

Bradley Hall are at the heart of these proposals," he said. "They have lived under the cloud of uncertainty for too long."

Campaign leader Mac Scott said they had wanted the home to stay under council control.

"It is a quick fix and a quick way to resolve their responsibilities when in fact they are still selling off the home," he said.

"Despite saying they would consult with us we were only invited to one meeting and today they have turned around after telling us nothing for months and said: 'here you go take it or leave it'."

Addict stole to pay for heroin

A 'COWARDLY' drug addict who stole bikes from two young boys to feed his heroin habit has been locked up for 22 months.

Scott Harris struck twice in less than two weeks targeting children aged 11 and 15. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Then the 28-year-old sold the machines for a pittance which was then squandered on drugs, said Mr Neil Ahuja, prosecuting.

Harris wrestled a £300 cycle from the horrified 11-year-old after starting to talk to the innocent victim who was playing at a BMX jump park in the Black Horse recreation ground off Cradley Road, Netherton on August 10, the court heard.

Mr Ahuja added: "The defendant was speaking to the young boy and then forcibly snatched the bike from the grasp of the child and quickly drove away."

Spotted

The bike was sold for £20 and has never been recovered.

Harris, who was on bail following his arrest for a similar offence committed less than two weeks earlier, was detained again three days later.

He had taken the bike of a 15-year-old boy that he spotted left unlocked outside an address in Moor Street, Brierley Hill, on July 31.

Harris was later spotted on the missing machine and

Appeal over theft of bike

AN APPEAL has been made after a bike was stolen from Wolverhampton train station. The bike – a grey, white and black Carrera model – was secured to cycle racks platform one at the station and belong to a 40-year-old Dudley man.

CCTV which shows the cycle being taken at about 3pm on Sunday August 4. Officers said they would like to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the theft, or who may have seen the bike to call British Transport Police on Freefone 0800 40 50 40 or text 61016.

Man faces drugs charge

A SUSPECTED drug dealer has appeared in court after police stopped an alleged heroin deal in Lye.

Keyon Holgate, aged 21, of Abbey Street North, Hockley, was stopped near the junction of Crabbe Street and Crosswalks Road and charged with possessing drugs and intent to supply.

He also faces charges of dangerous driving and driving without insurance, and appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court on Thursday. He will next appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court to face the charges on December 20.

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Lecture to look at village's golden age

LOCAL historian Terry Church is taking a look at the 'golden age of village life' in the 24th Andrew Barnett memorial Lecture on Thursday October 10. The event, hosted by Sedgley Local History Society, takes place at St Andrews Church in Bilston Street, Sedgley.

Mr Church said he was determined to put Wall Heath on the map and will talk about two of the most important decades of the last century, the 50s and 60s. He will be capturing those years with stories of school, the world of work and recollections of both local and national headlines.

Among the subjects he will be highlighting are the Cold War, 1953 and the Coronation, Lego, Baggies winning the FA Cup in 1954 and 1968, Wolves' success in the cup in 1960, the assassination of President Kennedy, England's World Cup heroes and the first man on the moon in 1969.

Admission is £1. Annual membership of the society costs £5 and gives free access to the programme of talks.

• Andrew Barnett was headteacher of Red Hall School, Lower Gornal, and was co-founder of the society. His book Barnett's History of Sedgley is available in local libraries.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

STILED HOME SERVICES MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2013

All Smiles at Stiled Garden Party

It was miles of smiles at the Stiled Home Services Garden Party on Sunday 8th of September. The Garden Party was arranged to celebrate the company's first year in its new Headquarters on the Halesowen Road. In attendance were the staff and their relatives along with many of the clients and their families. The company has evolved organically from a simple domestic cleaning to "companion cleaning" and now a fully fledged Care in the Home organisation.

The day was an opportunity for clients to meet with other service users and socialise, (something which many of them find hard to do), and celebrate the success that Stiled Home Services have achieved in their first year in their new home.



It was evident from the miles of smiles and excited chatter that all those in attendance on the day were having a great time at the first Garden Party organised by Stiled. Burgers, hot dogs and sandwiches were

said Bev. He very rarely, if ever, goes out of the house so it was a big day for him today". Leo (93 years young) worked as an engineer in a tool room in a Birmingham factory during his working life.



available along with a very nice cake stall that had a mouth watering array of treats. A raffle was held to win a range of prizes donated for the day and several stalls offered prizes such as Guess The Weight of the Cake and How Many Sweets are in the Jar. The cake was won by Mr. And Mrs. Dalton. Originally from Coventry Mr. & Mrs. Dalton have been using the service for over a year now. "We have recommended Stiled Home Services to many of our friends and neighbours. They look after us so well, nothing is too much trouble. We really look forward to Monday's when our Carer comes to us." Also present on the day were Ken and Anne Quiney, the couple originally called Stiled in to provide Respite Care to cover a holiday period. They now take additional care in the home leaving Stiled to do more for them.

Bev Garrett, one of Stiled Home Services long serving employee was looking after Leo. "I have been Leo's carer for over 3 years now"

Another client Malcolm Oakley was also very appreciative of the work Stiled do for him. Malcolm (53) was involved in a serious motorcycle accident when he was 28 and need help around the home. The accident did not put him off - he can still regularly be seen on his Electric Mobility Scooter around the streets of Blackheath.

There were many more clients who beamed their satisfaction with the services Stiled have provided. It was refreshing to see the wide smiles and encouraging comments that were consistently coming from the Service Users on the day. "I think this will become an annual event now" said Michelle Hims, "We are planning a Christmas Party in December and hope to have the same result".

It is a credit to the company that they strive so hard to deliver the best possible care, but in reality it is the only standard acceptable. After all, when you are looking to provide care for yourself or a loved one, success has to be the "only" option. Getting it wrong can have unthinkable consequences.

Staff Commitment Is the Key



Christine McManus, Principle of Stiled Home Services commented "This year has seen demand increase considerably as more people than ever are needing care and attention in the home. Our staff always respond when the demand dictates. We recently had a client who needed an extra 50 hours per week instantly due to a health issue deteriorating. Even though it was during one of our busiest periods with a lot of the staff on leave, they rallied round and solved the problem.

This demonstrates that our staff really do care about our clients.

Tagtronic Computer System Commissioned

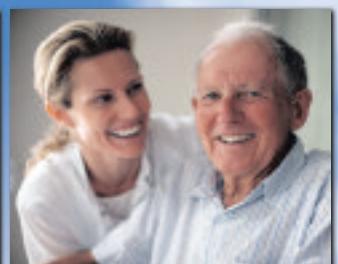
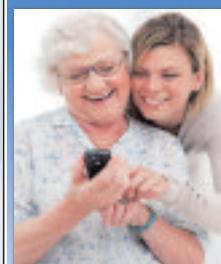
The company have recently installed new software that is aimed at improving integrity of the service they deliver. The Tagtronic System encompasses all the daily operations and ensures that the right staff are at the right clients at the right time. "This has ensured that our service users are always matched with the right carer that has the correct training and qualifications required to meet the needs of that specific client." said Christine McManus.

New Web Site Goes Live



The new web site went live last month and has been well received. The site was created by UK Creative Web based in Halesowen and features large text for those who have issues with vision.

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NEWS

Special treat for zoo's red pandas



Trainee zoo keeper Johanna Turner delivers treats to a grateful recipient at the red panda enclosure at Dudley Zoo

LUCKY red pandas got all the cake they can eat for their special day at dudley Zoological Gardens.

The zoo celebrated International Red Panda Day on September 21, and cute and fluffy Yasmin and Yang, two of its most popular animals, will be joining in. Visitors were able to see

feeding time, when keepers delivered the duo's favourite treats of bamboo sticks and lashings of 'panda cake' – a special mix of crushed leaves and insects.

People were also able to find out more about the secretive species, which is also known as the firefox.

Assistant curator at the zoo, Richard Brown, explained: "Yasmin and Yang are very popular with visitors who love their rich red teddy bear-like appearance, although the species is more closely related to raccoons and weasels than pandas as their name suggests."

It's all HAPPENING...

LG Arena the nia



23 OCT - 3 NOV 13



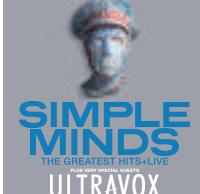
12 NOV 13



15 NOV 13



28 NOV 13



29 NOV 13



30 NOV & 1 DEC 13



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NEWS

Scout Ben gets royal approval with award

by Alex Ross

A TEENAGER who has overcome a degenerative bone condition to be a leading example at his scout group has won a national award – and the chance to meet Prince Harry.

Ben Hart was aged just five when he was diagnosed with Perthes disease.

But the teenager, who lives in Pedmore near Stourbridge, has been able to bounce back from the crippling condition to complete numerous scout challenges.

He completed his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition in extreme pain in the Forest of Dean before, more recently, finishing his Queen's Scout Award.

Ceremony

He has been honoured with the Cornwall Scout Award.

He was then nominated for inspirational young person of the year – a category in the Wellchild Awards by his Explorer Scout group leader Mike Randle.

This culminated in Ben, of Drew Crescent in Pedmore, being invited to a ceremony in London – where he won.

He also got to meet Prince Harry, who was at the awards at the Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane to hand out the accolades.

He said: "It's funny – I sometimes think why do this all for me when I have just got on like everyone else?"

"On the other hand I sometimes think it's great to be recognised for what I have done. It's good to see something handed out to young people too."

"You don't see much positivity in the



Pride – Ben Hart, aged 17, with award he received from Prince Harry

news for young people so I definitely am happy to welcome this," he added.

His mother Helen, 45, a teacher at Pedmore Technology College, said: "I'm thrilled for Ben, he is so very humble about all this."

"He thinks he's just a normal person, but he has done so well consid-

ering what he has faced since being a child."

Mike Randle, the Explorer Scout Leader who nominated Ben, said: "Ben has thrown himself into helping others, always willingly and with a smile on his face."



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NEWS

Firm bosses lied about nationality of workers

by Lee Watton

ILLEGAL workers were taken on by a firm which then lied about their nationality and supplied them to a vegetable farm in The Cotswolds.

Foxwell Ltd, based in Lye, illegally employed Romanian workers and supplied them to the farm, passing them off as Hungarian to avoid legal questions.

The firm has now been banned from supplying workers to a number of industries – including agriculture, horticulture and shellfish – after an investigation revealed persistent and systematic breaches of its licence. The firm, in High Street, has now been stripped of its gangmasters licence following an investigation by the Gangmasters Licensing Authority.

Investigation

The agency, which serves agricultural workers and food pickers, was set up in the wake of the Morecambe Bay tragedy in 2004, when 21 cockle pickers were drowned by an incoming tide.

An investigation revealed Foxwell Ltd was found to have breached at least 11 different licensing standards in supplying workers to a vegetable farm in Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire. It also showed there were inadequate records of hours worked for calculating worker wages and not allowing a worker paid leave to attend ante-natal appointments.

There was also no record of complaints or any formal procedure in place to handle them, while there was a failure to provide adequate toilet and first-aid facilities for field workers. An inspection report concluded Foxwell Ltd's non-compliance with licensing standards was 'persistent and systematic'.

Notification of the licence was to be revoked was sent in March. The firm initially lodged an appeal against the decision but this has now been withdrawn.

Piece of cake for funds



Halesowen College student Sophie Wilkinson puts the icing on the cake. THE dye is cast for a 'great pink bake-off' as students get set to raise some 'dough' for charity.

Halesowen College hosts the event on October 18 to help raise funds for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

The student bakers have taken on the challenge to raise as much money as they can through a sweepstake as to who will win the bake-off, in each bakery group, along with

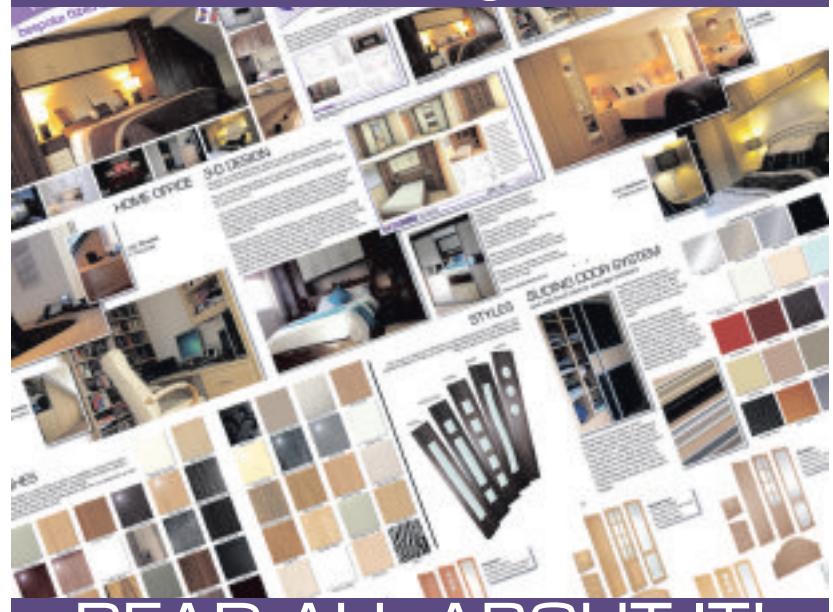
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NEWS

Work start date set for building of store

BUILDING of a controversial new supermarket is due to start in November with the store set to open its doors late next year.

Budget chain Lidl was given permission for the new store on the Duckworth Trading Estate, in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford, earlier this year.

And fencing has now gone up in preparation for work to begin. The first phase of the scheme will see existing buildings at the site demolished and the land cleared.

This work is expected to begin in November with the actual construction of the new supermarket starting soon after. Businesses and councillors in the area said this was the timescale they had been given for the

scheme, which is expected to create around 40 jobs.

Leader of the Dudley borough's Conservative group, and Kingswinford councillor, Patrick Harley said he was pleased to see.

"My understanding is the plan is to open the new store towards the end of 2014 – certainly in time for Christmas of that year," he said. "If for one welcome this development. It will bring jobs and more trade into Kingswinford."

A worker from nearby Kingswinford Auto Services said he too had been told demolition would start in November.

The scheme proved controversial with bosses from the Mid-Counties Co-operative, which has a store in nearby High Street, hitting out at it.

Charity garden day helps cause



Chris Barron, of the White House cancer charity, and Ashwood Nurseries manager Philip Baulk

PLANT lover were given the opportunity to feast their eyes on a wide variety of beautiful blooms when a garden is opened to the public to raise cash for a cancer charity.

John Massey, owner of Ashwood Nurseries near Wall Heath, threw open his private garden in aid of Dudley's White House Cancer Support.

The gardening expert was on hand throughout the day to answer questions from visitors on how to get the best out of their own plants.

White House, based in Ednam Road, Dudley, was named as Ashwood Nurseries' charity of the year and around £18,000 has already been raised through events.

Mr Massey's garden backs on to Ashwood Nurseries, in Ashwood Lower Lane, Kingswinford.

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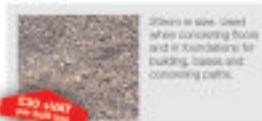
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Green Slate



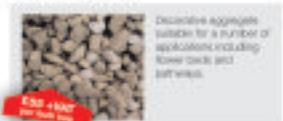
Decorative aggregate, used for paths, driveways, borders and raised beds. An added finishing touch to your garden.

Forest Of Dean



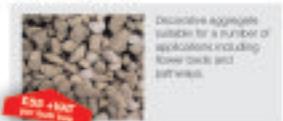
Decorative gravel, hand selected stones ideal for paths, paths, and decorative features.

Derbyshire White Chippings



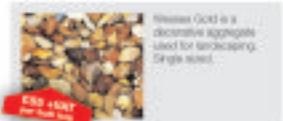
Derbyshire white chippings - bright, decorative chippings to make a wonderful touch to your garden or driveway.

Cotswold Stone



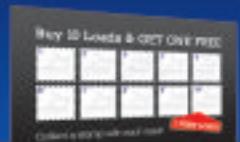
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CLUB NEWS

Minute's silence for a founding member

WOLLASTON TWG

IN THE absence of the chairman, vice chairman, Hazel Needham opened the September meeting.

She welcomed fifty members and one visitor, then read out the list of apologies. A minute's silence was observed for Jean Andrew, a founder member who was very active in all sections including the choir.

A number of members attended her funeral. This was followed by the subsection reports, which included the announcement that Jill Perry had been the victor in the bowls competition, with newcomer Ann Foxall, very creditable second.

The skittles evening on October 16 at the Stourbridge Institute will cost £8, including a fish and chip supper. Numbers for this event are limited, and a board for names is in circulation. A board for names of members wishing to visit Chatsworth House on November 20 is also available. The cost of this trip is £20.50, with £5 deposit.

We were then entertained by Mrs Adrienne Jennett, who related how she and her fellow volunteers enacted realistic fire and accident incidents, in order to give members of the fire, police and paramedic services experience of dealing with such incidents.

Raffle prizes went to Ann Foxall and Sue Carless.

Blossoming crowds



Crowds attend the show held at the Wall Heath venue WALL Heath Show was a roaring success on Saturday September 14, held at the village community centre.

Jointly organised by the village's Horticultural Guild and Flower Club, the 67th show was opened by Councillor Dave Tyler in front of a packed audience.

Councillor Lynn Boleyn also attended along with Natasha Millward, parliamentary candidate for Dudley South.

WALL HEATH HORTICULTURE GUILD

The show featured more than 80 competition classes including flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Councillor Tyler said: "This was the best annual show yet with a fantastic turn out".

DUDLEY S'TH LUNCH'N CLUB

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones welcomed back 36 members and three visitors following the summer break.

Great changes had taken place at the Kingfisher Hotel, Wall Heath during our absence and lunch was served in the newly refurbished white front room.

Speaker Sue Clegg was excellent with her talk entitled "The World of Finger Printing". Sue, a retired police officer, was the first woman fingerprint expert in the country.

Everyone has a different fingerprint, the lines of which go through the flesh and last a lifetime. DNA can be the same in identical twins but not their fingerprints.

She mentioned the notorious Black Panther whose print was left in a small exercise book near the body of Lesley Whittle. He was eventually caught and his prints matched.

Meetings are held the second Friday each month, comprising a three-course lunch, speaker and raffle. In October the Rev Stephen Buckley will talk about his life from Stage to Pulpit.

On December 5 an outing has been arranged to Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton to see their Christmas decorations and the acclaimed Bel Canto Singers will entertain following the December lunch. Visitors are most welcome – for more information ring the Secretary on 01902 372984.

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Mayor's XI is ready to kick off charity game

A CHARITY football match will be held this weekend to help net funds for the Mayor of mayor's charities.

Dudley Town Football Club's managers and coaches will compete against a Mayor of Dudley 11 in the charity match at The Dell Stadium on Sunday.

Councillors and council officers will come together to make up the mayor team.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Finch said: "We were delighted when Dudley Town Football Club offered to host the charity match to help raise money for my two chosen charities.

"I hope people will come along and support the event and help raise as much money as possible." All money

raised at the event will go to the Mayor of Dudley's two chosen charities which are White House Cancer Support in Dudley and Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

Stephen Austin, chairman of Dudley Town FC, added: "We were delighted when our own nominated charity, The White House, asked if we could take part in and host this charity game."

Hope

"I really hope the people of Dudley support this game."

Entry into The Dell to watch the match will be free, but spectators will be asked to make donations to the charities.

The match will kick off at 3pm.

Actors prepare for a Du Maurier classic



Members of Wordsley Amateur Dramatics, Andrew Wood, Lisa Gregg and Steph Oakley, all from Kingswinford, who star in the Daphne Du Maurier classic

AN AMATEUR dramatics company is opening the autumn play season with Daphne Du Maurier's classic - September Tide.

The Wordsley Amateur Dramatic Society is performing the show at Kingswinford Methodist Church Hall, in Stream Road, from October 9 to 12.

The play is set in a comfortable house on a Cornish estuary where widowed Stella invites her daughter Cherry and her artist husband Evan for the first time.

She is shocked by the bohemian incompleteness of their marriage and finds herself attracted to Evan, and soon they are passionately in love.

Evan eventually compels Stella to admit her feelings.

The dramatics company is celebrating its 90th anniversary next

year, having been set up in 1924. It has about 40 members, many of whom joined as teenagers.

Member Dink Widdowson said: "We're a successful group - while many others in our area have gone we still remain and attract good audiences to our productions."

"We try to vary our programmes - this one is a tale of love that is also a bit of fun."

Most

The group is busy preparing for next year's 90th anniversary celebrations.

Mrs Widdowson said: "We want to make the most of it because many of us may not be here for the 100th anniversary."

September Tide will be shown from 7.30pm.

Tickets, priced £7, can be purchased on the door.

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Range of duties for mayor as cuts ribbon



Mayor Councillor Alan Finch opens the new store with The Range regional manager Matthew Davies and manager Jason Walker and staff looking on. IT WAS all smiles as customers were welcomed inside a new store at Merry Hill. Home and leisure retailer The Range, which also has a store in Kidderminster, opened its doors on Friday.

The store is the firm's 78th in the country and the opening has created 150 jobs. It stands next to Currys and PC World and two empty retail units in the retail park, but bosses hope the store's opening will attract more interest in the site.

Schemes to regenerate are backed

MAJOR regeneration plans aimed at boosting two towns by creating more homes and highlighting historic features have been endorsed by councillors.

It is hoped to lay the foundations to transform Halesowen and Stourbridge over the next 20 years by creating a host of development opportunities.

Priorities include creating new homes in disused shops or office units in both town centres in a bid to bring footfall. They hope the plan will lead to more people living and working in the town centres themselves rather than having empty buildings.

But campaigners have called for older landmark buildings around Halesowen to be protected from future developments to ensure the town retains important parts of its history.

Safeguarded

A community group recently held its first meeting to draw up a list of buildings it wants to see protected.

They claim landmarks

like the former Halesowen Council buildings in the town centre, Lutley Mill and the home of Somers Sports and Social Club, based at the Grade II Listed site known as The Grange, should be safeguarded.

It comes after the future of the Halesowen Abbey ruins, in the grounds of Manor Abbey Farm off the A456 Manor Way, appeared settled as a deal to sell the site was expected to be completed shortly.

Other features around the town, such as the River Stour, should be explored to see if they can be made more of a feature to attract people to come and live in Halesowen, the report said.

A Preview to Christmas

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Christmas Party Menu 2013

Carrot and Coriander Soup
Served with Parsnip Shavings and a Swirl of Cream
Pork, Duck Liver & Port Pate with Apple and Sage Served with Melba Toast and Spiced Fruit Chutney
Duo of Melon
With a Forest Berry sauce and Lemon Sorbet
Brandy infused North Atlantic Prawn Cocktail
With Celery, Peach and Marie Rose Sauce ***

Hand Carved Roast Turkey
Served with Roast Potatoes
Seasonal Vegetables & all the Trimmings
Roasted English Leg of Lamb
Stuffed with Vine Tomatoes, Shallots, Mushrooms & Rosemary
Served with Gratin Dauphinoise & Seasonal Vegetables
Poached Plaice Fillet Roulade Filled with Root Vegetables
Served with a Dill Cream Sauce, New Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables
Mushroom, Spinach & Cranberry Wellington
Served with a Thyme, Butter Sauce & Seasonal Vegetables ***

Traditional Christmas Pudding
Served with Brandy Sauce
Mulled Wine Poached Pear
Served with Vanilla Ice cream
Baked Apple & Ginger Cheesecake with a Caramel Glaze
Served with Rum Infused Maraschino Cherry
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Two Courses £14.95 Three Courses £16.95
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What's On! Stourbridge

Spooky events coming to get your fangs into

HALLOWEEN is a few weeks away but already some theatre companies are determined to give audiences a fright.

Black Eyed Theatre Company bring a highly theatrical adaptation of the classic Dracula to the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton from Monday to Wednesday (October 7-9), including a matinee on Wednesday for those afraid of going home in the dark.

As Dracula's shadow looms over England, a small group of young men and women, led by Professor Van Helsing, face a struggle with the undead.

Exciting

Director Eliot Giularocca said "It's a fabulously talented cast with a muscular new adaptation of Bram Stoker's novel by John Gimman and original music by Ron McAllister. We have all the ingredients needed to create something exciting, memorable and thought provoking."

Tickets for Dracula are priced at £11 full price, £9 concessions and £5 for the matinee performance. They can be purchased at the box office on 01902 321 321 or at www.arenatheatre.info

Meanwhile, Don't Go Into The Cellar present a reading of M R James's ghost stories in Warnings To The Curious at the Bookmark Bloxwich Theatre in Elmore Row tomorrow night (Friday) at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £8 (£6 cons). Call 01922 655900.

Fashion guru in panto debut but not as 'fairy Gok mother'



The Illusionists, from left Jinger Leigh 'The Enchantress', Philip Escoffey 'The Mentalist', Jeff Hobson 'The Trickster', Dan Sperry 'The Anti-Conjuror', Kevin James 'The Inventor', and Mark Kalin 'The Gentleman'

Expect the unexpected

A MAGNIFICENT seven magicians join forces for a mind-boggling night of trickery when The Illusionists arrive in Wolverhampton next week as part of their world tour.

Each illusionist is a master of their field, ranging from mind-reading to escapology. They include Dan Sperry - The Anti-Conjuror - who is a master of shocking illusions. Jinger 'The Enchantress' Leigh and Mark 'The Gentleman' Kalin will make the impossible seem real, whilst Philip Escoffey - 'The Mentalist' - will apparently be invading minds in the audience.

Jeff 'The Trickster' Hobson blends magic and comedy while Kevin 'The Inventor' James is a master of deception. Andrew Basso - 'The Escapologist' - is set to impress with his death-defying escapes. Expect to be baffled and, most of all, expect the unexpected.

The Illusionists are at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Tuesday, October 8. Tickets range from £32.50 to £40 plus fees. Call 0870 320 7000 or www.wolvscivic.co.uk

FASHION guru Gok Wan was joined by fellow panto stars Stephanie Beacham, John Partridge and Danielle Hope as Birmingham Hippodrome's revealed details of its big festive show *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

The 39-year-old TV presenter from Leicester will be making his pantomime debut starring as The Man In The Mirror, while John Partridge, best known for playing Christian in EastEnders will play the handsome Prince.

Danielle Hope, 21, who won BBC TV's talent show *Over the Rainbow* to star as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* at the London Palladium, will be starring as Snow White.

Ventriloquist

Screen actress Stephanie Beacham, who appeared in *Dynasty*, will be the focus for boos and hisses as The Wicked Queen. West End regular Gary Wilmot is playing a Dame for the first time and ventriloquist Paul Zerdin plays Muddles.

No actual dwarfs will feature in the production with the seven played by 'physical theatre' actors in special costumes.

The show runs at the Hurst Street theatre from December 19 to February 2. Tickets are priced from £12 to £39. Contact the box office on 0844 338 5000.



Birmingham Hippodrome panto stars, from left, John Partridge, Danielle Hope, Gok Wan and Gary Wilmot

REVIEW

Too many drums drowned voice

Dan Whitehouse
Crescent Theatre, B'ham
WOLVERHAMPTON'S singer and songwriter Dan Whitehouse launched his second full album before a sold-out Crescent Theatre where he appeared with a full band including, oddly enough, two drummers.

Not surprisingly he opened with a track from his new album *Reaching for a State of Mind, Come To Me*, which was over-powered by too much percussion.

With both sets of drums banging away, Dan's voice was a little lost and the harmonies of a rather nervy Harriet Harkcom were barely audible. This problem carried into with the next song *The Light*.

Harsh

Dan finally came through with *Come Back* where, without the intrusion of the harsh percusion, his distinctive voice could be heard clearly.

The Birmingham-based singer was getting into his stride by the time he got to two of his best ballads *They Care and Three Bodies*. Dan tries awfully hard to please and include his audience but he should concentrate more on relaxing and letting his talent speak for itself.

In songs such as *When We Were Sleeping* and *My Heart Doesn't Age* you get a real feel for just how clever and intricate his writing is.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 5.10.13

CHOICE



Gabourey Sidibe

Precious BBC2, 11.10pm

Don't expect a bundle of laughs from this Oscar-winning film. Instead, have hankies at the ready, because it's incredibly upsetting in places. It's also a fascinating tale about 16-year-old Claireece Jones. She's illiterate, overweight and pregnant with her second child – whose father is Claireece's own biological dad. He's been abusing his daughter for years. Eventually, Claireece is moved to a new school where a kindly teacher attempts to take her under her wing, and give her the care and attention that could turn her life around.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Paul Hollywood's Bread. **(R) 12.00 Football Focus.** 12.45 Saturday Sport. **1.00 Regional News; Weather.** **1.15 Formula 1; Korean Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.** **2.30 Live Gymnastics: World Artistic Championships.** **4.30 Final Score.** **5.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.** **5.30 Pointless Celebrities.** **6.20 Come Dancing.** The battle to win the annual trophy really begins as the pro-celebrity couples step onto the dance floor for the second time, knowing one pair will be going home tomorrow. The results are tomorrow at 7.20pm.

8.25 Atlantis. Jason promises to bring a missing man, who has been taken by the sea worshippers of the god Dionysus – and comes face to face with a woman who will one day become a great enemy.

9.10 The National Lottery Live. New series. Chris Evans reveals the results of the new Lotto draw and gives players the chance to win £50,000 live on air.

9.25 Tess. Tess has to confront her own problems when a pregnant woman is involved in a road accident, while Robyn and Jamie witness the effects of a batch of poisons on the Holby nightlife.

10.15 BBC News; Weather. **10.30 Match of the Day.** Including highlights of Manchester City v Everton; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. **1.10 Weatherview.** **1.15 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.50 Film:** Johnny Angel. (1945) **8.05 Film:** San Demetrio, London. (1943) **9.45 Reel History of Britain.** (R) **10.15 The Life of Pi.** (R) **11.00 Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age.** (R) **11.30 University Challenge.** (R) **12.00 The A to Z of TV Cooking.** **12.45 Rachel Allen: Baker!** (R) **1.10 EastEnders.** **3.00 The House That £100 Built.** (R) **4.00 The Wonder of Dogs.** (R) **5.00 Flog It!**

6.00 Robert Peston Goes Shopping. The hunt for the best value retail in Britain since the end of the Second World War, beginning by examining how shopping evolved from a chore into a popular pastime. (R)

7.00 Count Arthur Strong. A riot forces everyone to take shelter in a back room of the cafe. (R)

7.30 Orangutans: The Great Ape Escape – Natural World. An orangutan is released back into the wild after eight years in a rescue centre, undertaking a journey by boat, plane and finally helicopter over its three-year-old infant. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. (R)

9.00 The 70s. A royal wedding, war in the Middle East, mass consumerism and self-sufficiency. (R)

10.00 The Sarah Millican Slightly Longer Television Programme. Extended edition, with Michael Palin, Helen Skelton and Tim Wonnerton.

10.40 Mock the Week. (R)

11.10 Film: Precious. (2009) Drama, starring Gabourey Sidibe.

12.55 Film: Heartbreaker. (2010) **2.35 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10 Matt Hatter Chronicles.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.50 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.00 Camp Rock 2.** (R) **7.30 Coronation Street.** (R) **7.45 Canimals.** (R) **7.55 Soothi.** **7.35 Horrid Henry.** (R) **7.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** **8.15 Bottom Knocker Street.** **8.30 Munch Box.** **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 Saturday Cookbook.** (R) **10.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.25 ITV News.** **11.30 The Secret Millionaire USA.** (R) **11.45 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.30 The Secret Millionaire USA.** (R) **1.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **4.10 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.40 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.10 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.40 Come Dine with Me.** (R)

6.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.40 Channel 4 News.**

7.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. Coulson takes his crew to Peru to investigate a mysterious cult that has condemned people to 8-4. But when he runs into Commandant Camilla Reyes, sparks soon fly – in more ways than one. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Colin Mackinnon and Marta Bringos take on an amateur builder who wants to build a bespoke metal home next to an airfield runway, but their plans are hit by bad weather. (R)

9.00 Film: Friends with Benefits. (2011) Premiere. Two co-workers start sleeping together, keeping their feelings out of it. The arrangement proves tricky. Romantic comedy, starring Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis.

9.50 Through the Keyhole. Simon Gregson and Mollie King join Dave Berry on the panel. Last in the series.

10.50 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Film: Mystery Rising. (1998) Thriller, starring Bruce Willis.

1.05 Jackpot247. **3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** (R) **3.40 ITV Nightscreen.**

5.55 Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Treacle People. (R) **6.15 British Rallycross.** **6.40 FIM Superbike World Championship.** **7.05 Great Schism.** (R) **7.30 The Morning Line.** **9.00 The American Football Show.** **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **12.30 The Secret Millionaire USA.** (R) **1.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **4.10 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.40 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.10 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.40 Come Dine with Me.** (R)

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9.50 Through the Keyhole. Simon Gregson and Mollie King join Dave Berry on the panel. Last in the series.

10.50 Film: Easy A. (2010) Premiere. Teen comedy, starring Emma Stone.

12.55 Film: The Keep. (1983) **2.40 Hellboy.** (R) **3.15 Seal of No Deal.** (R) **5.50 SuperScrimpers.** (R) **5.55 Countdown.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55 Power Rangers: Megaforce.** **10.30 Sluggers.** **10.55 Inside Hollywood.** **11.00 The Young Montalbano.** (R) **12.00 Film: Columbus: The Land.** (R) **1.00 Detective drama,** starring Peter Falk and Roddy McDowall. **1.30 Film:** The Magnificent Seven. (1960) Western, starring Yul Brynner. **4.00 Film:** Battle of the Bulge. (1965) Second World War drama, starring Robert Shaw and Linda Dano. **4.45 Film:** Charlie's Angels.

5.15 Film: Blood Alley. (1955) A merchant sailor rescues Chinese villagers from communist oppression and transports them by ferry to safety in Hong Kong. Action adventure, starring John Wayne and Lauren Bacall.

5.45 Film: Lethal Weapon 3.

6.10 Film: Lethal Weapon 3. (1987) Detectives Riggs and Murtaugh go on the trail of a former policeman selling impounded weaponry to criminal gang bosses. Action thriller sequel, starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover.

11.25 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (2004) Las Vegas. (R) Gregson and the team respond to a fatal shooting at an electronics store, only to discover the victim is a rapist being sought by Nick and Catherine in a separate investigation. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **1.00 Michael Jackson's This Is It.** **1.30 Challenge.** A cheetah gets a health check. (R) **4.25 Make It Big.** The team is under intense pressure to sell tickets. (R) **5.00 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.00 Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.10 Anna and James' Helpline.** (R) **5.20 Angels and James.** (R) **5.40 The Family Show.** (R) **5.40 Roary the Racing Car.** (R) **5.50 Hana's Helpline.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** The Stephen Lawrence Unity Concert **8.00** Top Gear **9.05 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006) **11.25 Film:** Guy **BBC Four** **7.00** Africa **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Africa **9.00** The Young Montalbano **10.40** Classic Albums **11.30** Forever Young – How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up **11.45 Film:** Blood Alley. (1955) A merchant sailor rescues Chinese villagers from communist oppression and transports them by ferry to safety in Hong Kong. Action adventure, starring John Wayne and Lauren Bacall. **1.30 Film:** Lethal Weapon 3. (1987) Detectives Riggs and Murtaugh go on the trail of a former policeman selling impounded weaponry to criminal gang bosses. Action thriller sequel, starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover. **4.00 Film:** The Spy Next Door (2010) **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** House I Met Your Mother **7.30** Suburbia **9.00** New Girl **9.00** Film: Run Fat Boy Run (2007) **11.00 Film:** Slither (2006) **1.45 Film:** The Quiller Memorandum (1966) **4.50** Freaky Friday (1976) **6.50** New British Cinema **7.00** Drillbit Taylor (2008) Comedy, starring Owen Wilson and Leslie Mann. **8.00** Parker (2013) **9.00** The Expendables 2 (2012) Sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **11.05 Predator 2 (1990)**

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What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

SUNDAY'S TV 6.10.13**CHOICE****Christopher Villiers****By Any Means****BBC1, 9pm**

The latest episode centres on the death of 18 people who perish in a building targeted as an arson attack. Could ruthless property developer Philip Granger be responsible, and if so can he be brought to justice, because he is holed up in the Colombian Embassy, where the ambassador is an old school friend? That's where Jack and his team step in. They set up a surveillance operation to monitor his activity, while Charlie infiltrates the embassy and works on seducing the ambassador's daughter, Warren Brown, Shelley Conn and Christopher Villiers star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, **7.40** Match of the Day, (R) **8.00** The Andrew Marr Show, **10.00** Sunday Morning Live 2013, **11.00** Sunday Politics, **12.15** Weather for the Week Ahead, **1.00** MOTD2 Extra, **1.15** BBC News: Weather, **1.15** Bargain Hunt, (R) **2.00** Formula 1: Korean Grand Prix Highlights, **4.00** Points of View, **4.15** Saturday Night, **5.00** Great British Year, (R) **5.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather, **6.20** Countryfile, Julia Bradbury visits the food festival in Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, and Matt Baker discovers how Blaenavon's old spoil heaps have attracted a surprising number of creatures, including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results

Discoveries at Newstead Abbey in Nottinghamshire include the English literature prize presented to DH Lawrence and the bugle used to sound the real Charge of the Light Brigade. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 By Any Means, Charlie goes undercover at an embassy, **10.00** News, Regional News; Weather, **10.25** Match of the Day 2, including highlights of Norwich City v Chelsea, **11.45** The Sky at Night, The team goes camping at the Brecon Beacons AstroCamp star party, **12.05** Weatherview, **12.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two, **7.05** Film: Dancer Girl Dance, (1940), **8.30** Gardeners' World, (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden, **9.30** James Martin's Food Map of Britain, (R) **10.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain, (R) **10.30** Live Athletics, **1.30** Live Gymnastics, World Artistic Championships, **4.30** Flog It!, (R) **5.00** Super Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs, **6.00** Great British Railway Journeys, (R) **6.30** The Great British Bake Off, **7.30** The Ginge, the Geordie and the Geek, The gulls take revenge on a motorist, **8.00** The Crane Gang, A wind turbine installation is brought to a halt by high winds, Last in the series, **9.00** The Ottomans: Europe's Muslim Emperors, New Sultan Rımaar traces the history of the Islamic empire, **10.00** The Wrong Mans, Sam and Phil try to rescue Mr Stevens' wife, (R) **10.30** QI XL, Extended edition, With Jeremy Clarkson, Jimmy Carr and Bill Bailey, **11.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks, Russell Howard hosts, with Guests Connor Maynard and Lethal Bizzle, (R) **11.45** The Year of Living Dangerously, Political thriller, starring Mel Gibson, **1.35** Sign Zone: Countryfile, (R) **2.30** Holby City, (R) **3.30** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou, **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles, (R) **6.35** Dino Dan, (R) **6.50** Dino Dan, (R) **7.00** Canimals, (R) **7.10** Canimals, (R) **7.15** Canimals, (R) **7.25** Sooty, **7.35** Horrid Henry, (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry, (R) **8.00** Almost Naked Animals, (R) **8.15** Tom Kicker Show, **8.30** Fish Jockeys, **8.45** Fish Hooks, **9.00** Big Time Rush, **9.25** Ade in Britain, (R) **10.20** Film: Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore, (1976), **12.15** ITV News; Weather, **12.25** Inside the Nation, **1.25** The X Factor, (R) **1.35** Fool Boulevard, **1.40** Big Star's Little Star, (R) **4.45** Downton Abbey, (R) **5.45** Regional Programme; Weather, **5.55** ITV News; Weather.

6.10 Surprise Surprise, An inspirational girl meets the Saturdays, Alex Jones helps a cheater find a future, ambition and two siblings are introduced to their brother after years of searching, **7.10** The X Factor, The judges have to tell the remaining acts which categories who have made it into the final 12, and who is heading home disappointed, **9.00** Downton Abbey, An extravagant party at the Abbey gives the Crawleys an opportunity to reunite with old friends, but alongside the celebrations come shambles, shambles and heartache, **10.05** ITV News; Weather, **10.20** The Classic BRIT Awards 2013, Myleene Klass hosts the ceremony from the Royal Albert Hall, **11.00** Premiership Rugby Union, **12.45** The Store, **2.45** Motorsport UK, **3.35** ITV Nightscreen, **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show, (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.35 The American Football Show, **7.30** American Football: Hard Knocks, **8.30** Emmerdale, **8.45** Louis Raymond, (R) **9.00** Frasier, (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch, **12.30** The Simpsons, (R) **1.00** Channel 4 Racing, **3.45** Film: Turner & Hooch, (1989), **5.40** My Big Fat Gypsy Christening, (R) **6.40** Channel 4 News, **7.00** World's Weirdest Weather, Alex Beresford reveals the power of the weather in the creation of strange weather events, from tornados spinning on the spot to dust storms, double rainbows and mirages, (R) **8.00** Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home, Kevin plans to build an observation tower three times taller than a double-decker bus, and turns to an ingenious mechanism to get around planning restrictions, **9.00** Homeland, New series, With Brody still at large almost three months after the terrorist attack on Langley, Saul plots a counterstrike against those connected to the devastating incident, **10.05** Was It Something I Said?, New series, Panel show, hosted by David Mitchell, **10.40** Gogglebox, Viewers' thoughts on the week's TV, (R) **11.30** Alan Carr: Chatty Man, The comedian is joined by David Mitchell, James McAvoy and Strictly Come Dancing co-host Tess Daly with some of this year's contestants, Iggy Azalea provides the music, (R) **12.30** Paddy's TV Guide, (R) **1.15** SuperCasino, **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge, (R) **4.25** Made in Big, (R) **5.30** The Big Reunion, **6.45** Film: **5.05** Angels of Jarm, (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline, (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm, (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show, (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car, (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline, (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!, Peppa Pig, **6.05** Storytime, **7.30** American Football: Hard Knocks, **8.30** Emmerdale, **8.45** Louis Raymond, (R) **9.00** Frasier, (R) **9.35** The Mr Men Show, (R) **10.45** Chloe's Closet, (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too, (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas, (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy, (R) **7.35** The Little Princess, (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky, (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina, (R) **8.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures, (R) **8.50** Mio Mao, (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom, (R) **9.15** Travelling Circus, (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car, (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm, (R) **10.00** The Mr Men Show, (R) **10.15** Power Rangers: Super Samurai, (R) **10.50** Sluggers, **11.20** Inside Hollywood, **12.25** Cowboys, (R) **1.25** Cowgirl Builders, (R) **2.30** Film: Innerspace, (1987), **4.50** Film: The Time Machine, (2002), **6.30** Film: Superman II, (1980) Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve and Terence Stamp, Edited for language, **8.55** 5 News Weekend, **9.00** Film: Killer, (2010) Action comedy, starring Ashton Kutcher and Katherine Heigl, **10.45** Film: Date Movie, (2006) Spoof romantic comedy, with Alyson Hannigan and Adam Campbell, **12.30** Traveller Feuds, (R) **1.15** SuperCasino, **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge, (R) **4.25** Made in Big, (R) **5.30** The Big Reunion, **6.45** Film: **5.05** Angels of Jarm, (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline, (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm, (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show, (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car, (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline, (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D, **7.20** Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (2007) **10.00** Family Guy, **10.45** Some Girls, **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 Miss Marple, **7.50** West Coast Otters, **8.00** Fabric of Britain: The Wonder of Embroidery, **9.00** Mark Lawson Talks to Bob Geldof, **10.00** Sight and Sound in Concert, Boomtown Rats, **11.00** Crossing England in a Punt: River of Dreams, **11.45** TV2

3.50 The X Factor, **5.50** The Xtra Factor: The Best of Benny Hill (1974) **5.55** Murder, She Wrote, **7.00** Lewis, **9.00** An Audience with Lionel Richie, **10.00** Film: The Graduate (1967), **10.45** TV4

3.45 George and Mildred, **4.10** Film: The Best of Benny Hill (1974) **5.00** The Parole Officer (2001) **11.00** Film: South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut (1999), **11.45** Film: **4.45** Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943), **7.00** BBC Radio 2, **8.00** Championship Highlights, **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union, **9.00** Film: The Parole Officer (2001), **11.00** Film: South Park: Bigger, Longer & Uncut (1999)

Film 4
4.00 How I Met Your Mother, **5.25** The Big Bang Theory, **6.50** How I Met Your Mother, **7.15** Rules of Engagement, **7.45** Film: Bandana, **8.00** New Rules, **9.00** Rules of Engagement, **11.30** Don't Trust the B---- in Apartment 23, **11.45** Film: **4.45** Film: **5.00** Film: **5.45** Film: **6.15** Aliens in the Attic (2009), **6.15** Independence Day (1996), **9.00** The Twilight Saga: New Moon (2009), **11.35** The Joneses (2009)

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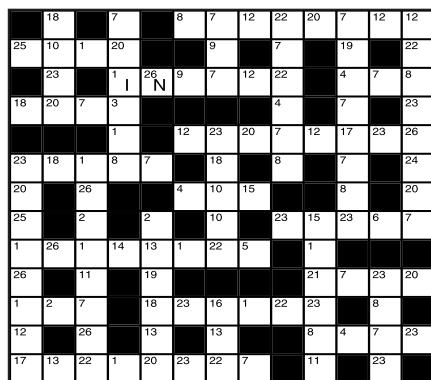
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What's On!**Brain Gym**

No.241

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
J	S	M	H	I	E	O	P	N	L	K	G	

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:**Across**

- It shows the pressure we're under (9)
- Make second-hand (3)
- What a motoring school is expected to do for the fireman's boss (5,6)
- Made run, perhaps, being defenceless (7)
- Work to rule? (5)
- Threaten to give me the cane, somehow (6)
- Article in the van (6)
- Speeds regulated by local authorities (5)
- Those who inherit are bound to (7)
- Not a reasonable way to act (11)
- Wood used in model-making (3)
- He should be a good mixer (9)
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2. A number smaller than two! (3)
3. A note for the chemist (5)
4. Distribute I get in traffic (6)
5. A dream I think a lot about (7)
6. A case of galloping consumption? (7,4)
7. Observing a communist and becoming angry (6,3)
10. In such a race, do you have a minute adversary? (7,4)
11. Not a member of a union? (9)
14. The actors went in front and changed positions on board (7)
15. Fleetingly (9)
16. Be in debt to (3)
17. Demolition (11)
18. Act of contrition (7)
19. Stirred up (6)
20. Oddity (11)
21. Eternal (9)
22. Built (7)
23. Lying between (11)
24. Turns aside (6)
25. Get to know (5)
26. Release (9)
27. Constantly find fault with (3)

Quick Clues:**Across**

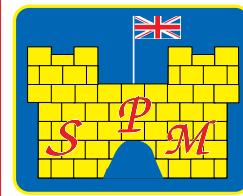
- Fleeting (9)
- Be in debt to (3)
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- Eternal (9)
- Built (7)
- Lying between (11)
- Turns aside (6)
- Get to know (5)
- Release (9)
- Constantly find fault with (3)

Down

- Regret (3)
- Temptress (5)
- Shun (6)
- Trifling (7)
- Ally (11)
- Remember (9)
- Oddity (11)
- Rub out (5)
- Brave (7)
- Lying between (11)
- Deed (3)
- Release (9)
- Constantly find fault with (3)

Sudoku

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >
 7 6 3 5 2 8 9 4 1
 2 9 5 1 7 4 3 6 8
 1 8 4 6 9 3 7 2 5
 4 3 9 8 5 6 3 7 1
 5 2 6 9 3 4 8 1 6
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WORDSLEY



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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO
HOME BUYING AND LETTING

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The house located in Old Park Road is on the market with the Sedgley branch of Skitts, call 01902 686868

OFFERS in the region of £110,000 are being invited for this traditional three bedroom semi-detached house in Old Park Road, Dudley.

In a popular residential area, the house is close to a range of amenities including shops, schools and public

transport services and though in need of some modernisation, comes with heating, double glazing where specified and garden to the rear.

On the ground floor is a sitting room, 13ft 8in by 11ft 5in, with a living room 11ft 4in by 10ft 4in and kitchen measuring 6ft 7in by 5ft 3in with single drainer stainless steel sink, base unit and work top with a lean-top verandah

with plumbing for automatic washing machine.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with panelled bath with electric shower, pedestal wash basin and WC. The rear garden has a patio area and lawn.

For further information or to arrange a viewing call Sedgley Skitts, 01902 686868.



The price of this detached in Gornal Wood has been reduced to £219,950 by Skitts

Reduced price for distinctive home

REDUCED to £219,950, this distinctive family home in Brick Kiln Lane, Gornal Wood, is for sale with no upward chain.

Situated in a sought after area, the property benefits from central heating, double glazing and a range of features including living room with feature fireplace, spacious dining kitchen, downstairs WC, integral garage, three double bedrooms, shower room, burglar alarm and enclosed rear garden.

The house is approached over an asphalt driveway with parking for numerous vehicles past a lawned area to a garage, while on the ground floor is a downstairs WC with

wash hand basin and a living room – 14ft by 13ft 9in – with coal-effect gas fire in marble type surround and hearth.

The dining kitchen, 20ft by 11ft 4in, has a range of base and wall units, single drainer stainless steel sink, roll-edge work surfaces, integrated oven with four ring electric hob and cooker hood, with a dining area with gas fire.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a shower room with cubicle, WC and pedestal wash hand basin.

The garage has plumbing for an automatic washing machine, with the rear garden having a paved patio area, lawn, flowers and shrubs.

Telephone Skitts on 01902 686868.

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Mirage turns out to be a delightful reality

IMAGINE you are trekking across a desert and you've drunk the last of your water. Desperate to slake your thirst there in the distance is a shimmering lifesaver – an oasis.

Freshwater surrounded by palm trees. But get closer and it turns out to be yet another pile of sand, a mirage.

Imagine your car has finally given up the ghost and you need to replace those wheels very quickly. You spot a car on a forecourt called a Mirage and from a distance it looks delightful, tempting you to go closer. As you approach it gets better and better and it doesn't melt away into nothingness.

When you open the door and climb inside the Mirage is exactly the opposite to the meaning of the word, an optical illusion which is unobtainable. For this car from Mitsubishi is certainly no illusion and is certainly attainable with a price tag starting at £8,999.

Well enough of all that flowery talk and let's get down to the meat of this small car, a return to Mitsubishi's roots of producing quality cars in this sector. It's the car that replaced the Colt and is stylish and well equipped. On top of that it produces less than 100 grams of CO₂ which means it's zero-rated for Vehicle Excise Duty and if you take it to London there's no congestion charge. And you won't be taking a bank loan to pay for fuel as you get between 65.7 and 68.9mpg across the range, as I discovered. Too often those fuel claims are optimistic for normal use in day-to-day driving but not so here.

The Mirage is powered by a new generation



Compact with a well laid out control panel – the Mirage 3 automatic model

of lightweight small petrol engines with two choices. A very low and frugal 1-litre on the Mirage 1, and the 1.2-litre, 3-cylinder engine that has a stop and go feature as standard, which I tested and thoroughly enjoyed.

The 1-litre will give you 71ps and the 1.2-litre 80ps which was ample to get me about. A 5-speed manual transmission is standard and there's a CVT auto on the top specification vehicle. And that CVT is an excellent worker.

The three trim levels of Mirage are designed to appeal to buyers on all manner of budgets and with all kinds of requirements.

The entry-level 1.0-litre version of the car may be the base model but it's still packed with a host of equipment. Included are front electric windows; side air dams; a tyre repair kit; AM/FM radio/CD with two speakers; a glovebox USB terminal and stability and traction control. Next in the range is Mirage 2 which



This new good-looker from Mitsubishi takes over from the ever popular Colt

comes with the 1.2 manual engine. This adds a host of extras, the main one of which is arguably Mitsubishi's clever Auto Stop & Go system. There's a seat height adjuster for the driver; rain-sensing wipers; privacy glass; autolights and bright interior door handles. Other features that are sure to appeal include air conditioning, a pollen filter, electric door mirrors and an outside temperature gauge.

Mirage 3, available with either automatic or

manual transmission, includes everything Mirage 2 has to offer plus front fog lamps, a leather steering wheel and gear knob and a keyless entry system with push-button start. Automatic air-conditioning with a pollen filter enhances the package still further, as do the front fog lamps. Mitsubishi took note of buyers' needs on safety and that worked with it gaining good marks with Euro NCAP giving Mirage a very high 4-star rating.

Your essential guide to the world of motoring

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Finance Example - Cash Price £4,995, Less Cash or Part Exchange Deposit £500, Amount of Credit £4,495, Total Amount Payable £5,990.20, 60 Monthly Payments of £98.82 or 260 Weekly Payments of £23.04.



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(05), 68,000 miles, EW, alloys, part leather seats, lady owner, MOT May 14, £1,050. 07225 04145.

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2001, 96k

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Egginton to defend his title at ballrooms

STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Egginton defends his Midlands welterweight title for the first time in Birmingham on Sunday afternoon against Derby's Dave Ryan.

The former English title challenger and two-weight Midlands champion should present a test at the Tower Ballrooms in Edgbaston for the talented 19-year-old, who won the belt from Steven Pearce in May.

Pearce, also from Stourbridge, has been handed his shot at redemption after being paired with Stafford's Rob Hunt for the British Masters welterweight crown.

Pearce held the Midlands strap for nearly two months this year and engaged in two exciting scraps, first with Derby's Luke Gallear and then with fellow Egginton, that saw him win and then lose that status and he hasn't boxed since.

Hunt also has experience of battling for a belt, having climbed back into title contention after losing to Ben Lawler for the same British Masters crown in 2010.

For tickets to see Egginton, call 07976 283 157. For Pearce v Hunt, call Walsall Town Hall Box Office on 0845 111 2900.

Runners in first cross country run

MEMBERS of Stourbridge Running Club took part in the North Staffordshire League at the weekend.

The first cross country race in the league was held in Winsford, Cheshire. The Division 2 men's team finished in fourth place.

The first three to finish the 10.5km course were Duncan Cornish (69th) 42.34; Mike Anslow (71st) 42.45 and Andy Ashton (85th) 43.48.

A total of 242 runners took part. The next race in the North Staffordshire Cross country league will be on October 26 at Stafford Common.

The club also had runners in the Kidderminster Shuttle race last weekend, organised by Kidderminster and Stourport A.C.

First to finish the 10k race was Lee Haynes with a time of 46.20, next was Adam Crompton with 47.36 and then we had Richard Dawson with 50.36.

O'Hara is not in my plans, says Jackett



Jamie O'Hara

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett has delivered another crushing snub to Jamie O'Hara.

The £5m midfielder joined a mixed squad for one training session to make up the numbers while a behind-closed-doors friendly against Sheffield United was played, sparking speculation he was back in the fray.

The stuttering Wolves midfield has come under fire at a time when David Davis was suspended for the visit of the Blades.

Some fans have called for exiled O'Hara, who earns an estimated £20,000-a-week, to be recalled,

Wolves

while others insist his time is up after failing out with supporters at the end of last season.

Jackett suggested he hasn't considered a U-turn on the 26-year-old, who is the only one of the four transfer-listed players still at Molineux.

"It's not something I've thought about too much," said Jackett. "He's not in my plans up to now."

"If the midfield needs a better balance, I'll try to address it and use every option I have."

"But my position hasn't changed –

my thinking at present isn't to use Jamie."

Asked about the clamour in certain quarters for O'Hara, Jackett said: "Maybe it's a reflection of the perception that the midfield hasn't quite looked right."

Clamour

"But there was a clamour in the summer for younger players to get a chance and that was what was needed."

"Making those changes doesn't mean you're going to be 100 per cent successful, but they needed to be implemented." Meanwhile, Jackett

revealed he discussed axing 'the big four' – O'Hara, Roger Johnson, Karl Henry and Stephen Ward – at his job interview, and that their wages were a consideration.

"My feelings and thoughts were conveyed in my job interview and the early weeks of the season," he said. "If you're not getting value for money, that's an added reason to turn players over."

"There have been discussions in board meetings where I put my views on how I feel it best to rebuild the club. You have to be open-minded but in the end it's best to do it your own way."

Victory in opening tie proves hard work

THE week started for Stourbridge Chess Club with a strong Wolverhampton Division 3 team travelling to Rushall for what should have been a comfortable win.

The team out-graded their opponents by an average of 33 points per board, with all players out-grading their opponent by at least 28 points.

Steve Jukes won and Eric Horwill and Steve Alcock both got draws. Unfortunately Paul Sharratt ran into an up-and-coming youngster and lost, so the match was level.

In the blitz finish John Foxall's opponent blundered right at the end with his flag hanging and was able to snap up the point.

The Worcester and District Division 2 campaign started with a trip to the usually strong and challenging at the top Redditch.

Steve Alcock scored the only point in a 3-1 defeat.

Sutton Coldfield visited with a strong team for the Birmingham Division 1 match.

Though unable to match board one, their boards five and six noticeably out-graded, especially on board six with their 160 grade.

TV pundit Claridge is star speaker

BBC TV pundit and ex-Wolves player Steve Claridge will be the speaker at a Sportsmen's Evening at Stourbridge FC's War Memorial Athletic Ground on Friday, October 25.

Claridge also has extensive knowledge of the non-league scene, having been player-manager at Weymouth previously and he also helped Gosport Borough to win the first of their back-to-back promotions in 2012.

The Sportsman's Evening at the Glassboys Bar will also feature Evertonian comedian Jamie Sutherland.

Doors open at 7 pm and hot food will be served at around 8 pm.

There will also be an auction, raffle and Irish bingo.

Tickets are £25. Please contact chairman Andy Pountney on 07870 275001 or e-mail him at andyp@andyfreight.co.uk

Saxons are dominant without going full out

Caldy 21 Stourbridge Saxons 55

THE Saxons rarely got out of third gear at Paton Field and proved too much for a Caldy side that, nonetheless, attacked at every opportunity but were undone by indisipline and conceding too many soft turnovers.

A turnover enabled Caldy to move the ball swiftly to the left where winger Craig Ross outflanked the defence.

Team mate Richard Vasey converted from wide out. The response wasn't long in coming, a Caldy infield clearance kick from their 22 run back and recycled through multiple phases before a gap appeared in the corner for Nile Dacres.

Jamie Hearn struck a well-taken conversion.

Marker

The restart was well taken under pressure by captain Robbie Hurrell who worked it left to Stefan Shillingford, he stepped inside his marker to race through to score without a finger laid on him. Hearn succeeded got the extras.

Disaster struck as the Saxons tried to counter with players out of position, tight-head Mark George finding himself having to turn to attempt a short pass to a teammate near halfway and failing to notice Ross who had anticipated it, stepped out of the line to take the interception and raced away for his second try. Vasey converted.

Matt Farrington who countered with an outrageous dummy to score under the posts. Hearn converted.

Sione Tuipolotu had replaced Gary Dipple and managed to throw a dummy and sidestepped the defence to grab the final try.



Second row Nile Dacres crashes over for the Saxons' first try of many in the sides domination of Caldry



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SPORT

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Jubilant Heathens in final of knockout

King's Lynn 44
Dudley Heathens 46
Dudley win 102-78 on aggregate

JUBILANT Dudley Heathens are through to their second successive Knockout Cup Final after a stunning win at King's Lynn.

Heathens already carried a 22 point lead from the first leg and it was another superb night for the men in Green, Red and White.

After suffering Grand Final heartache in the competition last year, team boss Will Pottinger is relishing the chance to seize glory this time around.

Said Pottinger: "We're absolutely delighted with the result - it was a great team effort with everybody contributing."

"We're looking forward to the final now, and hopefully we can manage to go one step further than last year."

Skipper Ashley Morris top scored, with solid support from fellow heat leaders Paul Starke and Lewis Blackbird. But it was at reserve that the match was won as both Dan Greenwood and Nathan Greaves enjoyed superb evenings.

KING'S LYNN 44: Robert Lambert 15, Lewis Kerr 10+2, Jake Knight 8+2, Darren Mallett 7+1, Shane Hazelton 2+1, Shane Waldron 2, Lewis Rose 2/2.
DUDLEY 46: Ashley Morris 13, Nathan Greaves 9+2, Dan Greenwood 7+2, Paul Starke 7, Lewis Blackbird 7, Max Clegg 3+2, Gareth Isherwood 0.

Lucky 13 for Yelt ladies

Woodstar 0
Halesowen Ladies 13

Halesowen travelled to Walsall wood to take on Woodstar expecting a tough game.

But the Yelt ladies raised their game and overwhelmed the host side.

Striker Sian Whitthall scored four goals in 22 minutes with some neat finishing and outstanding team play.

Captain Lyndsey Glover scored twice and Halesowen were 6-0 at half time.

In the second half Haley Chatwin scored within the first minute helped by Rachel Letford. Midfielder Sarah Hammill scored her first Yelt goal, Sabrina Dale set up Letford who got a second half-hat-trick.

Skipper Glover finished the rout with a well-taken penalty. Manager Scott McKee said: "The team performance was outstanding."



POPULAR youngster Max Clegg was officially unveiled as a Dudley Heathens club asset prior to their play-off tie with Isle of Wight last Tuesday night.

The 16-year-old signed his contract on parade before the impressive 59-31 victory over the Islanders.

The former Bradley club fought off interest from a host of other clubs to secure the signature of the highly-rated youngster, who has been in sensational form throughout 2013.

Clegg celebrated the news with a superb 7+2 point haul to help Heathens to victory, and he later revealed his delight at formally

Ballrooms blitz

Egginton to defend his welterweight title at Tower
Page 39

Oh O'hara
 Player is not part of Jackett's plan
Page 39



e-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

Clegg delight as he becomes a club asset

Speedway

becoming a Dudley rider. He said: "It's great to sign for a club like this - I've really enjoyed riding here this year so it's great to become an asset."

"I just want to thank the fans for all their support and the management for giving me this opportunity."

"It's a good move for me and hopefully I can have a good career here in the future."

Meanwhile, Dudley will carry a healthy 28-point lead into their National League play-off semi-final second leg following the victory over Isle of Wight at Monmore

Green, giving them a healthy advantage ahead of the trip to Smallbrook.

Reserve Dan Greenwood led the charge in fine style as he flew to a five-ride paid maximum, whilst Ashley Morris also suffered just one defeat with a fine showing.

Lewis Blackbird battled bike problems to notch nine while Paul Starke bagged a useful 11 from the No.1 position.

DUDLEY 59: Ashley Morris 14, Dan Greenwood 11+4, Paul Starke 11, Lewis Blackbird 9, Max Clegg 7+2, Gareth Isherwood 6+2, Nathan Greaves 1+1; **ISLE OF WIGHT 31:** Steve Worrell 16, Darryl Ritchens 6, Danny Stoneman 4+1, Tom Perry 3, Chris Widman 2+1, Brendan Johnson 0, Ben Hopwood R/R.

Credit us for victory says boss

BOSS Steve Clarke has demanded credit for Albion's historic Old Trafford victory and claimed the Baggies are changing their big-match mindset.

The Hawthorns head coach urged pundits to praise his team instead of launching United post-match in the wake of Albion's 2-1 win on Saturday.

He claimed the Baggies now believe they can upset the Premier League's big boys on a regular basis after ending the club's 35-year wait for an Old Trafford win.

"I want to make sure that we get the credit we deserve," said Clarke.

"Sometimes when you go to the home of a big team and manage to get a good result against them, everybody talks about how bad they were."

"But on Saturday we were excellent and everybody should concentrate on us."

"We defended well, as we have all season, we were strong and solid."

"Everybody did their work and the midfield were solid, had a good shape and passed the ball well."

"And our creative players created and that's why you have them in the team. The two goals were excellent."

Bowlers new kit for next season

BOWLERS will be kitted in new colours when their season gets under way next year.

The Black Country Bowls Club is the largest flat green bowls club in the Dudley borough with more than 60 members. The club has ditched its traditional white shirts and club ties in favour of new T-shirts in club colours.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, October 3, 2013.

FA CUP WIN SEALED WITH LATE PENALTY

F A Cup 2nd Qualifying Round
 Stourbridge 3 Sutton Coldfield 2

GARY HACKETT'S men scraped through to the 3rd Qualifying Round thanks to Sean Geddes' late penalty.

This finally saw off the challenge of the Evo-stik League Division One South club, who gave the home defence plenty of problems. Hard running Nathan Thompson gave the back-line some uncomfortable moments.

It was Ben Billingham who helped turn the game back the way of the hosts in the second period.

The Royals opened the scoring when Luke Chapman delivered a free-kick towards the back of the box and the ball was headed back across goal towards the six-yard area to the feet of Daryl Taylor with Thompson in close proximity to shoot past Coleman.

Glassboys

but Billingham kept his head to clip the ball into the far corner of the net.

On 71 minutes Stourbridge won a free-kick just outside the Sutton box and Billingham curled the ball round the wall and with the aid of a slight deflection, he found the net.

A good move after 77 minutes almost provided a third goal with Geddes slipping a pass inside from the right to Benbow and he threaded a pass through into the run of Billingham and he pulled the ball back to Rowe, whose shot was blocked.

Six minutes later Leon Broadhurst broke up a visitor's attack and spread the ball across to Rowe.

He switched play with a crossfield pass to Benbow and he drove into the box, but his shot was turned round the post by Evans.

Then in the 86th minute Sutton restored parity as a left-wing corner unhinged the Glassboys' defence and Lee Parsons scored.

A replay looked on the cards, but in added time, the hosts forced a corner. Geddes' flag-kick dropped to Bennett and his shot hit Scott Lycett, who was adjudged to have handled. He was sent-off and Geddes stroked the spot-kick home.

Saxons hit high fives without getting into top gear



Flanker Eji Uzoigwe in attack for the Saxons with close support during the battle with Caldy. Full report inside.

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